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EXPLORING LIJIANG IN FIVE WAYS

BUDDHIST CEREMONY IN SÊRXÜ PASSIONS FOR THE YANGTSE



264

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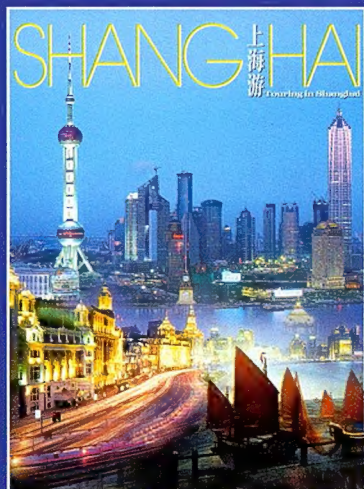


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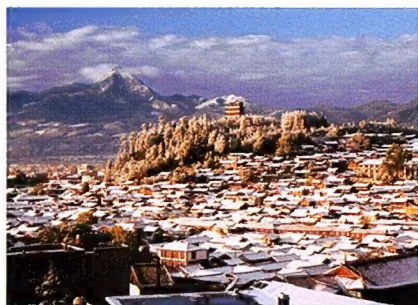
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Lijiang, located in a region where the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau transforms into the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, is a simple and unsophisticated ancient city. We have summed up five ways to see Lijiang: as a photographer, a mountain climber, a custom tracer, a person of nostalgia and a music lover. You may experience the exotic feelings in the Dayan Town, read the interesting dialogue between the reporter and the Mosuo people, as well as have a glance of the Naxi ancient music performance.

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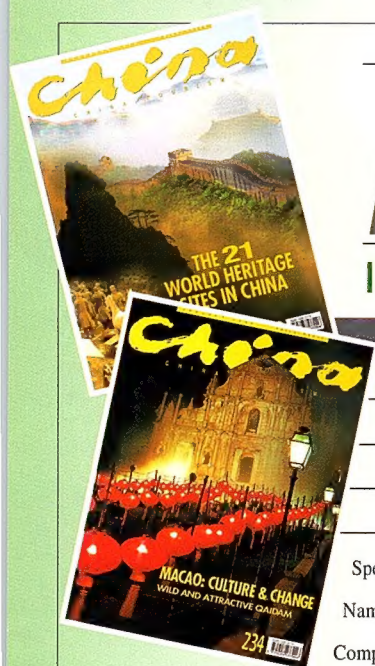
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FROM THE EDITOR

FIVE HIGHLIGHTS OF LIJIANG

This month we travel to many destinations the length and breadth of China and we are treated to many scenic and cultural delights. Central to this month's explorations are articles recording five scenic highlights around the World Heritage Site of Lijiang in Yunnan Province. We are whisked from this lakeshore to the Yulong Snow Mountain and then to the last matriarchal society in China, the Mosuo people. Ancient folk tales, beautiful Lake Lugu known as the "Kingdom of Women" and a Beijing violinist punctuate our visit to this tranquil and peaceful people. Here lineage passes down through the mother and marriage is a contradiction. So how does Wu Yue, a Chinese Han woman from Guangzhou fair with her love at first sight Mosuo mate?

Journeying into Lijiang we learn of this city's legends, streets, history and culture. Tibetan caravans long ago stopped coming here, yet even today the past is melded into the present in Lijiang as we discover in the fifth episode of our odyssey. Tang Dynasty music long thought lost to the world is in fact brought alive daily by the Naxi musicians. Certainly, you may also be captivated by the stunning views of Shandong or the Yangtse River; or amazed by the grand Buddhist ceremony held in Sêrxū in which thousands of Tibetan pilgrims gather and pray. We hope you enjoy this enchanting collection.

Photo by Shen Jun

Tianjin to Build World's Biggest Military Theme Park

A company in north China's port city of Tianjin plans to build a military theme park with a retired Kiev aircraft carrier as its big draw card. The Tianjin Beiyang Maritime Pleasure Ground Co. estimates that would be the world's biggest of its kind, will cost 5 billion yuan.

With an area of seven square kilometers, including 3.3-sq-km of waters, the park will feature a range of weapons. The company is in the process of applying for the land-use right for the planned park.

The retired aircraft carrier, which is 274 metres long, 52 metres wide and weighs 24,000 tons, is being refitted at the nearby Shanhaiguan Dockyard. And the carrier was purchased by a shipbroker in Tianjing for 70 million yuan.



Relocating Residents to Protect World Heritage Site

To restore the original outlook of the ancient city Pingyao in North China's Shanxi Province, the local government will move more than 20,000 residents out of the city proper in the next four years to better protect this World Heritage site.

Built 2,000 years ago and was put on the World Cultural Heritage list in 1997, Pingyao is renowned for owning well-preserved ancient city walls, residents, government offices, and stores of the Ming (1368 — 1644) and Qing (1644 — 1911) dynasties. The city covers an area of 2.25 sq km and has a population of 45,000.

Relocation of three hospitals, seven schools and kindergartens is expected to be completed in 2002. The population in the downtown area is expected to be reduced to less than 20,000 by 2005 when all work units are moved out. Meanwhile, the city government has made great efforts to improve the local environment. Thirty polluting enterprises around the city are to be closed, as 30 chimneys and more than 400 coke furnaces will be demolished in the near future.

The city will also standardise advertising signs along main city streets and improve greenery along a dozen streets.

Miss World Contest Hoped to Be Hosted in China

Sanya, a tropical tourist city on South China's Hainan Island, is likely to become the first Chinese city ever to host the Miss World beauty pageant.

The event organiser Julia Morley has made a five-day trip to Sanya recently to inspect preparations for the China section of the contest, which will be held in September and produce a contestant for the 2003 Miss World finals in Mexico.

While expressing satisfaction with Sanya's tourism environment and the preparatory work, she hinted at the future possibility of Sanya hosting the finals of the annual contest. Sanya authorities are actively working toward the goal of hosting the event in the next few years.



Entrance Fees of Jiuzhaigou Be Increased

Starting August 8, the entrance ticket for Jiuzhaigou (Nine Village Valley), a famous scenic spot in Southwest China's Sichuan Province, will be increased from 90 yuan during the peak season and 60 yuan in slack months to 145 yuan and 100 yuan respectively. Foreign tourists will be charged the same as the domestic price. The ticket price is raised to discourage too many people from visiting, since crowds have already taken their toll on the natural beauty despite careful preservation.

China's First Expressway Under Expansion

China's first standard expressway linking the northeast cities of Shenyang and Dalian is to become the country's longest eight-lane super highway under an expansion scheme launched in Shenyang on May 18.

The four-lane expressway, with a length of 348 km, will be upgraded to eight lanes when the project is completed in 2004. Twenty-eight construction firms, winners of a national tender, will undertake the job, which will cost about 8.4 billion yuan. The expressway linking Shenyang and Dalian, both in Liaoning Province on the coast of the Bohai Sea was the first standard expressway in China when it opened to traffic in 1990.

The upgraded expressway will have a width of 42 metres, allowing a speed of 120 km per hour, compared with 100 kilometres per hour previously.

Application Procedure for Taiwan Visa to Be Eased

Hong Kong residents bound for Taiwan may enjoy a more flexible on-the-spot visa scheme in the near future. The Chung Hwa Travel Service, Taiwan's representative office in Hong Kong, is considering to simplify the visa application procedure for Hong Kong residents who are making their first trip to Taiwan. The agency will allow them to get visas on arrival if they are accompanied by their spouses or family members who have been to Taiwan before. The agency also plans to lift the restriction in the short term of a maximum 14-day stay in Taiwan for Hong Kong residents who enter the island with on-the-spot visas.

These new measures came after the latest relaxation by Taiwan: mainlanders travelling abroad for sightseeing or business and those who have lived in Hong Kong or Macao for more than four years with legal working permits are permitted to visit Taiwan.

Yellow River to Be Monitored

China is to establish a centre to monitor the quality and levels of its second largest river, the Yellow River. The centre, based in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Central China's Henan Province, has been working on a feasibility study for the project. It will adopt high technologies including advanced monitoring, computer networking and digital information engineering technology, in order to follow the changes of the quality of river water and provide acute and timely information about the water resources. The Yellow River has been suffering from severe pollution since the 1990s.



Building a Care Centre on Mount Qomolangma

A care centre is to be built at the core area of the protection zone of the world's highest peak, Mount Qomolangma.

Catering to tourists, the center will be completed later this year and will have an emergency room, oxygen room and provisions room, plus 16 hotel rooms. Meanwhile, according to an official with the reserve, a real-time environmental monitor centre and a mini-museum introducing animals in the area will also be erected.

The complex covering an area of 1,050 square metres will be located near the world's highest temple, and is eight kilometres from the peak. The building is expected to have little impact on the local environment and the three million yuan (US\$361,000) project will adopt to traditional Tibetan architectural style.



University to Build Memorial Hall for Zhang Xueliang

Dongbei (Northeast) University in Liaoning Province plans to build a memorial hall for General Zhang Xuiliang (1898 — 2001), a former president of the school.

In December 1936, Zhang collaborated with the Communist Party of China to force Chiang Kai-shek, who was then head of state, to wage war against the invading Japanese troops, hence causing the Xi'an Incident. In 1928, Zhang became the president of Donggbei University. During his incumbency, the university was built into one of the best in the country and one of the major educational and research centres in the northeast.

The construction of Zhang's memorial hall is expected to be completed by April 26, 2003, the school's 80th founding anniversary.

Beijing to Build International Media Avenue

An avenue where the global media giants gather is planned to be built in southern Beijing.

The 3.2-kilometre "international media avenue" will lie in the Xuanwu District and cover a total area of 220 hectares.

An estimated investment of 30 billion yuan (US\$3.6 billion) would be needed to build the avenue, which is expected to form a large community of international media industries.

Construction of a global news centre, funded by China's Xinhua News Agency and other entities, will start within the year.

World's First Jade Buddha Park Opens

Ningbo The world's first Buddhist temple with all of its figures carved from jade has been unveiled in the Dayin Town in Ningbo, East China's Zhejiang Province, in mid-May. Among more than 10,000 works, there are jade works weighing up to 30 tons and two-story high in a jade theme park inside. The park covers 166 hectares and is divided into six parts, including an exhibition area for sculptures, pavilions and jade products. Having cost 650 million yuan to build, the park has attracted 150,000 visitors during its construction period.

Qingdao Promotes One-card Travelling Pass

Shandong As Qingdao is the only partner city other than Beijing that will host the 2008 Olympics, the Qingdao Tourism Bureau and Qingdao Digital Harbour have released a "one-card travelling pass" program with the name of "Qingdao 2008-Blue IC". With the travelling pass, both the tourists and Qingdao residents can enter the scenic spots in Qingdao without purchasing the entrance tickets.

As explained by the Tourism Bureau, the IC travelling pass can be used in entering main scenic spots in Qingdao. In the future, it can function as a phone card. Before 2008, people can use the card to pay for dining, accommodation, taking transport instruments, and touring the scenic spots.

Cheung Chau Puts Efforts to Boost Tourism

Hong Kong With constant efforts paid by local residents and certain regional committee members, Cheung Chau has become a favoured tourist destination owing its unique features in these years. However, the Asian financial turmoil has largely influenced the tourism industry in this island recently. In order to boost the local tourism again, enthusiastic residents in Cheung Chau have held a signing movement since May. With adequate signatures of the public, they will propose a list of suggestions on how to improve the tourism in Cheung Chau to the government. These are some of the suggestions:

1. Open a yacht pier as well as a fishermen's wharf in Sai Wan;
2. Establish night markets from the area around the Cheung Chau ferry pier to Sai Wan;
3. Construct a Cheung Chau Culture and History Museum, introducing and popularising the historical background, traditional festivals, and the legends of Cheung Po Tsai, a famous pirate in Hong Kong in the 17th century, and Cheung Po Tsai Cave in Cheung Chau;
4. Construct a round-island cycling trail on the northern coast in Cheung Chau which reaches Cheung Kwai Road in the west and Cheung Chau Beach Road in the east;
5. Establish an astronomical museum in the Tai Kwai Wan Reservoir in northern Cheung Chau, so as to enhance the scientific knowledge of the tourists as well as promote the lovely night scene in Cheung Chau;
6. By improving the safety facilities, restore the "Climbing Bun Towers" program in the Bun Festival held in every mid-May, so as to preserve the most essential part of this traditional occasion. The program has been stopped since an accident happened in 1978.;
7. Build up diversified aquatic sports training centres. Cheung Chau has been famous among foreigners since the local resident Lee Lai Shan (San San) had won the gold medal in wind-surfing in 1996's Olympic Games. It would be a big advantage to promote water sports and breed new talents in this subject by building training centres;
8. Raising the quality of present scenic spots in Cheung Chau, including the Lesser Great Wall, Ng Han Rock, etc.



Macao-Singapore Air Route Opens in July

Macao Singapore In July, an air route is to be opened between Macao and Singapore. According to a memorandum of understanding signed between the Macao Government Tourist Office and Silkair, a Singaporean air carrier, there will be two round trips on the route each week. Moreover, both sides have agreed to jointly hold various promotions, consolidate links among Macao, Singapore and southeast Asia and spur tourism development. Macao is the 24th destination in the flights provided by Silkair, a regional air carrier set up in 1975.

Zhesi Garden — an Enchanting New Spot

Hubei Situated nearby Donghu (East Lake) in Wuhan, capital city of Mid-China's Hubei Province, the Zhesi (Philosophy Thinking) Garden is a newly built park neighbouring the "Wei Chu You Cai" (means "only the



Chu Kingdom has talents") Garden and Lisu Tablet. *Lisu* is a name given to a special kind of literature writing created by Qu Yuan, a famous patriotic poet of the Chu Kingdom during the Spring & Autumn Period (770 — 476). Covering an area of 11,500 square metres, the garden is mainly built with granite, green rocks and sand, and bronze. Statues and relief made in realistic or abstract styles present visitors with well-known figures of the eight schools of philosophy in the Chu Kingdom during the Spring & Autumn Period. Tourists can have more understanding of the views towards the cosmos, universe, and life of ancient Chinese philosophers, as well as the unique and profound Chu culture. (information by Tong Hanfang)

China-India Direct Flight Launches

China India The China Eastern Airways has recently opened a direct flight between China and India. The new route has shortened about four hours the time flying from China to India or vice versa.

The two new flights go between Beijing or Shanghai and New Delhi in India. The one going between Beijing Capital Airport and New Delhi provides service on every Monday, departing from Beijing at 20:00 to New Delhi at 00:25; and leaves from New Delhi at 01:45 to Beijing at 10:15. The one going between Shanghai and New Delhi provides service on every Thursday, in which the flight departs from Shanghai Pudong International Airport at 22:00 to New Delhi at 02:20; and leaves from New Delhi at 03:40 to Beijing at 12:30.

Cross-country Train Launches

China Vietnam On April 26, the first tourist train going between Guilin in West China's Guangxi Province and Vietnam, named "Friendship", has launched. The "Friendship" will pass major cities in Guangxi such as Guilin, Liuzhou, Nanning, and Fengxiang, and in Vietnam including Tongdeng, Hanoi, Ha Fong, Halong Bay. A single trip will take four days and three days. Tourists can enjoy meals and rest on the train.

Shenzhen Wins Global 500 Award on WED

Shenzhen The 2002 International World Environment Day (WED) Celebration and Global 500 Award Ceremony was hosted successfully on June 5 in the Shenzhen Grand Theater. The Shenzhen Economic Special Zone received the award gloriously while 280 nominees competed for the honour of the Global 500 Laureates. This celebration has global significance since year 2002 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

The Shenzhen Economic Special Zone, established in 1980 as China's first economic special zone, has successfully followed the concept of developing the economy without damaging the environment. In 1982, some 76% of non-civil land in the City was earmarked for ecological purposes and 135 parks were created, thus increasing green coverage in the urban centre by 45%. The investment for environment in 2001 was up to 3.8 billion yuan. Besides, a total of eight wastewater treatment plants and China's first sanitary waste landfill plants meeting international standards have been constructed, adding with two power plants for waste incineration and one hazardous waste safety landfill plant. Shenzhen is now promoting house waste separation and classification and has set up 69 green schools and kindergartens and one ecological demonstration zone.

Shenzhen also received the titles of National Model City for Environmental Protection and International Garden City in 2000 granted by the International Association of Gardens and Recreational Facilities.

The World Environment Day, which is celebrated in some 120 countries around the world on June 5, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to focus global attention and action on environmental issues.



New Cultural Movement Memorial Hall Opens

Beijing Built by the Museum of the Chinese Revolution, the New Cultural Movement Memorial Hall in the Red Building attached to Beijing University has opened to the public in late May.

The five-story building, with a floor-space of 10,000 square metres, is the former seat of the No.1 Institute of the Beijing University.

On May 4, 1919, over 3,000 university students left the Democracy Square north of the building and marched towards the Tian'anmen Square, starting the patriotic "May 4 Movement", which is also called the "New Cultural Movement" in China's modern history. The movement was widely seen as a boost for the spread of Marxism in China and gave a strong push to the emergence of the Communist Party of China (CPC) which came into being two years later.

Memorial Park of the Martyrs in Anti-Japanese War

Guangzhou Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong, owns a time-honoured history and culture. As it had been the revolutionary base before, many mausoleum garden of martyrs and historical sites of revolution legends are left. Among these places, the Memorial Park of the Martyrs built in the remembrance of the No.19 Route Army during the Anti-Japanese War happened near Songjiang River, Shanghai, on January 28, 1932. Located at 113 Shuiyin Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou, beside a zoo, the garden owns an area of 5,200 square metres. It was built with the donation of overseas Chinese in 1933. Inside the garden, there are a victory gate, a huge memorial monument, tablets of the martyrs, Anti-Japanese War Pavilion, martyrs tomb, and a memorial hall. Built mainly with granite, the garden reflects a Romanic architectural style.

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(information by Liang Juqiao)



Zhongdian Renamed Shangri-La

Yunnan Approved by the State Council, the name of Zhongdian, a county situated in the Dêqên Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in West China's Yunnan Province was officially changed to Shangri-La County on May 5, 2002. The name "Shangri-La" first appeared in *The Lost Horizon*, a fiction written by American author James Hilton in 1933. The book describes a place called "Shangri-La" which people are living peacefully in a tranquil and picturesque place. All the years, experts believe the exact location of "Shangri-La" is Zhongdian in Yunnan. "Shangri-La" means "the Sun and the Moon in the heart" in Tibetan language.

Domestic Flights Set Discount Price

Announce by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), a privilege policy of buying flight tickets in the mainland will be introduced from June 10, except flights departing to or arriving from Hong Kong and Macao. Group tickets have to be booked at least three working days in advance. The discount range and original price must be printed on the flight tickets. Certain details are listed as follows:

No. of people	Days in Advance of Booking	Discount
10-19	4-7	90% (single)
		85% (return)
20 or over	4-7	85% (single)
		80% (return)
10-19	8	80% (single)
		75% (return)
20 or over	8	75% (single)
		70% (return)



A Century-long Sentiment

It seems the waterfront towns situated in "Jiangnan", the area south of the Yangtse River, were built for people to reminisce about the past.

In contrast to Zhouzhuang's touristy, Luzhi (甬直) is far more exquisite and its beauty is not recorded. It gave me the impression it is a woodcarving or paper cutting. It is a place of water and bridges. Water constantly flows through it along different canals. The all-stone bridges are simple but sturdy.

It was a spring afternoon when we strolled to see Luzhi's bridges. One side of the canal was a green curtain of willow trees swaying above the flowing water. The fragrance of peanut and sesame candy from the stalls on either side filled the air. The warm sun shone on the bryophyte growing on the riverbank and on the windowsills of the family homes. Since we had other arrangements for the night, we left Luzhi reluctantly in the evening.

I was not expecting my regret at leaving here in a spring day would be settled into a summer's night along the ancient canals.

Under an intense sun, we sailed from the Dongshui (East Water) Pass, passing the Taiping (Peace) Bridge and slowly headed east after rounding Yizhou Pavilion. As the boat entered the peaceful ancient canals in Changzhou (常州), the spray made by the screw stopped. Sitting in the air-conditioned cabin, I could still feel the blazing heat of the sun through the glass window.

I must visit the canal town at night, I thought to myself.

After supper, I followed my desire and walked into Biji (Wooden Comb) Lane. A breeze blew along with me taking away the heat of mid-summer. My friend told me a legend of the colorful waters in a hushed voice.

Biji Lane was once called Huashi (Flower Market) Street. It was first famous for silk and flowers, which were tribute items to the emperor. When the Qing emperor Qianlong (1711—1799) made a secret inspection tour to Changzhou, he noticed that all the shops in this street were selling wooden combs. Therefore, he suggested changing the name of Huashi Street into Biji Lane. The name has stuck ever since. Biji Lane was visited by the emperor several times and its name spread far and wide. In late the Qing Dynasty there

Writer: **Wang Xueying** (王雪瑛)

Editor. Having studied Chinese literature from Mr. Qian Gurong, she earned a master's degree in 1989. Her published books include *Fangwen Migong* (translated as "Interview Maze") and *Shunu de Guangmang* (translated as "The Glamorous of a Lady")

were seven workshops in the street, and "Old Bo Hengshun Biji Shop" was the most famous among them.

While he told me this legend, we reached the shop. It is a three-story tower built on the site of the former site old shop. Seeing me wondering about the light on the third floor, my friend said, "This is the residence of Bo Zhongkuan, the 18th descendent of Bo Hengshun."

The shop was closed. I could still smell a slight lingering aroma. My imagination took me to a long ago scene: a beauty elegantly dressed combed her hair with a comb she held in her soft hand. The fragrance came from her hair as she combed it with light movements. Her charm lingered in Biji Lane even after more than a hundred years.

Leaving the lane the canal came into view. A bright moon hung in the sky, and the river dove through the darkness. Ripples reflected the handsome shadow of nearby Wenheng Bridge, which has withstood wind, rain, and long nights. To the bridge all people and events appearing on or underneath it were merely passers-by over the hundreds of years. What remains is the water which constantly flows under it day and night from spring to autumn. Perhaps, only the bridge can understand the sentiments of the river, and only the river listens to the sighing of the bridge.

Seeing me become quiet, my friend started on a new topic, "When the water flows rapidly, the reflection of the moon in the water will pass the bridge along with the rapids. Such a wonderful scene is called 'Wenheng Passing the Moon'."

"I've seen a silver moon but haven't encountered the rapids tonight. However, I am satisfied. Perfection is something one may hope for but can never really expect. Imperfection is what life is about!"

As we were leaving Jiangnan, the humid mist as tender as soft music soothed my heart. My sorrows waned and my mind became crystal clear. The afterglow of more than a thousand years filled the air. Time flowed perpetually like water. Jiangnan does not just exist in a single day.

FEATURE STORY

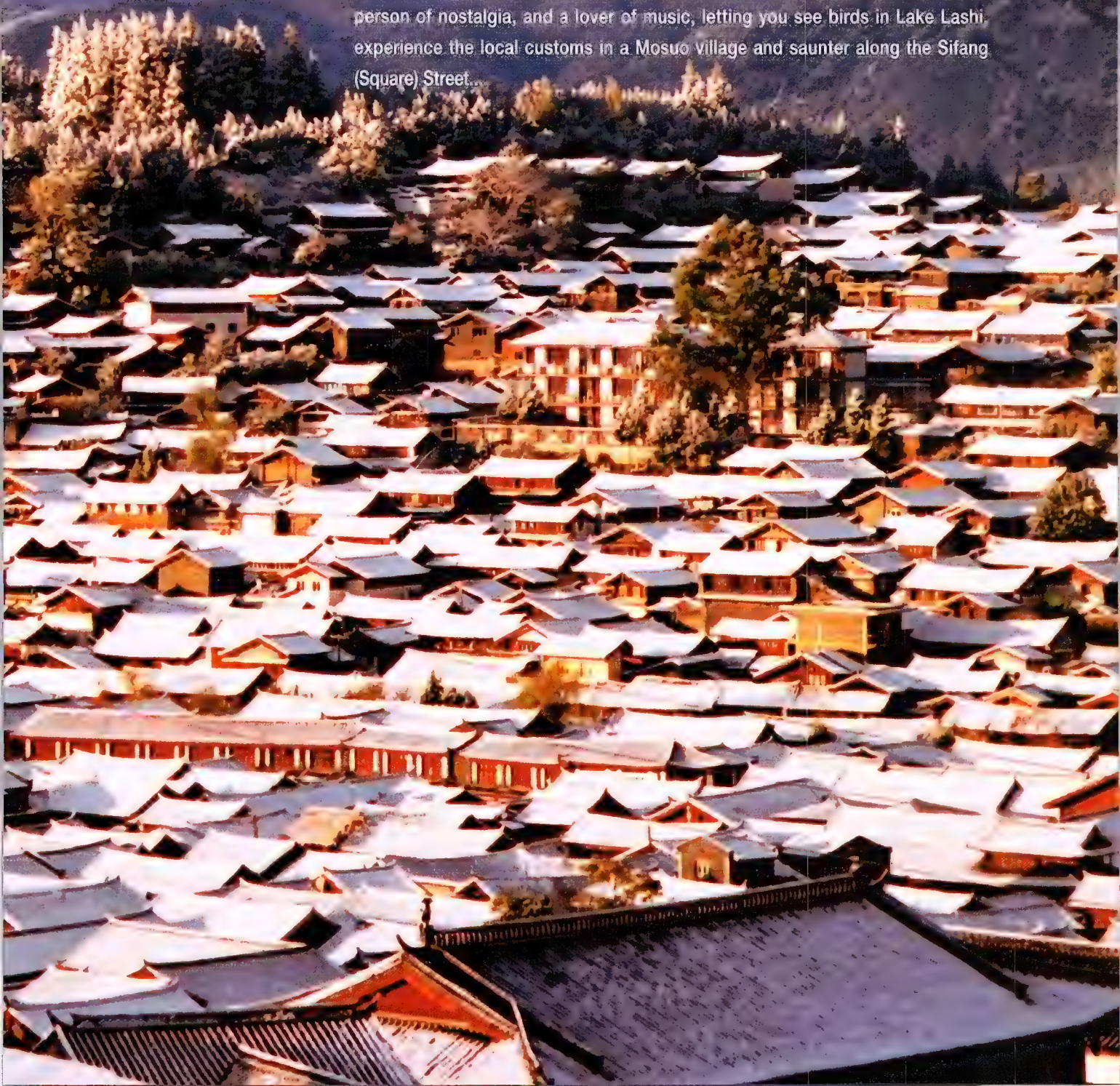


Five Ways to See

Lijiang is an ancient town located in northwestern Yunnan Province. It

LIJIANG

is renowned for its well preserved ancient buildings, for which it has been listed as one of the World Cultural Heritage Sites. Lijiang is unique of having rich cultural and natural attractions, as well as local customs. We have summed up five ways to see Lijiang, namely, as a photographer, a mountain climber, a local custom tracer, a person of nostalgia, and a lover of music, letting you see birds in Lake Lashi, experience the local customs in a Mosuo village and saunter along the Sifang (Square) Street.





TAKING PICTURES OF BIRDS AT LAKE LASHI

Photos & article by
Li Zhixiong, Xi Zhinong

See Lijiang as a Photographer

It was last October that I went to Lake Lashi for the first time. There I stayed in the home of Mr. Yang, a schoolteacher, in a fishing village by the lake. That night he told me all the stories he knew about local wild ducks. When he was a child, Lake Lashi teemed with wild ducks. Many of his dreams in his childhood had something to do with wild ducks. But to his disappointment, years later, wild ducks no longer came here. Only in winter would a few be floating on the water. Whenever there were people approaching, they would fly away.

When he became a teenager, he went to college in Kunming. Upon graduation he returned home to become a teacher. One day he was delighted to see a flock of wild ducks had returned. He told his students his childhood dreams and asked them to be friendly towards the water fowl or they might leave for good. Since 1995, more and more migrating birds have passed the winter on Lake Lashi. Tens of thousands of migrating birds come here every year.

Those migrating birds are very clever and know that the local people are friendly towards them. So they no longer fear. Sometimes, they even alight in courtyards of the village to snatch feed from the mouths of domestic fowl. Local residents regard them as members of the village and treat them well. Every morning, fishermen who set sail to fish take particular care not to disturb them. As time passes, this area has become a paradise for water fowl. It shows there is a harmonious relationship between people and nature.

Not long ago, a friend of mine working in the Kunming Animal Research Institute told me that a hooded crane was seen on Lake Lashi. It is a bird under level two of state protection. It breeds in Siberia and passes the winter in the lower reaches of the Yangtse River. It was the first time it had been reported in Lake Lashi. In order to observe the birds, Xi Zhinong and I decided to go to Lake Lashi.

♦ **Li Zhixiong**
complained: the lens is
too short and the coat
too red....♦

Before day-break, I heard village dogs barking. I rolled out of bed in a hurry and ran towards the lakeshore.

We made a division of labour between Xi and me. He would take pictures with a super-long lens at the lakeshore while I went out in a boat hoping to take close-ups of the bird. In this way we would certainly find the bird. Before long, we got to the lakeshore but only to find a lake shrouded in mist. There was not a single fishing boat to be seen. Through the thinning fog, we caught sight of a few distant boats sailing towards the centre of the lake. All was tranquil as we stood there looking across the water not knowing what to do.

The sun finally appeared and dispersed the mist over the lake. Then I found a dinghy (or as the locals call the "pig's trough boat")





which was used for purchasing fish. It was pretty small and could only hold one person. Fed up with my pleading to board his boat, the boatman agreed that I could sit in his boat on condition that I must do whatever he said. It was better than nothing and I complied. Presently, the little dinghy sailed across the lake. A moment later I spotted many wild ducks amidst the reeds. Only then did I realise that my zoom was not powerful enough. In the view-finder, a wild duck was only a grey dot.

It would not work either to go closer, for my red eiderdown coat would only scare them away. As soon as they saw my red coat, they took to wings. I had to give up and followed the boatman to purchase fish. Luckily, I had a pair of 10 power binoculars on me. I searched amidst flocks of wild ducks, hoping to find the lens hooded crane (*Grus monacha*). But to my chagrin, I failed. Apart from wild ducks, there were many migrating birds such as bar-headed geese (*Anser indicus*) and common cranes (*Grus grus*).

◆ **Xi Zhinong complained: too many scenes to take picture of, but too few batteries....** ◆

At a little over six o'clock next day, I set up again, fully equipped: a Canon camera, a 400 mm lens and a video camera.

I headed for the lakeshore through the tiny fields. Morning had broken and a thin layer of mist was rising from the lake. In the distance, some early fishermen were weighing anchor to spread their fishing nets. The frosty ground under my feet was so soft that my shoes sank in the mud. Each step was a struggle. However, I anticipated seeing the hooded crane, and the very thought of the bird quickened my steps.

Previous page: Magnificent Lijiang after a snow. (by Xu Ji)

1. Colourful clouds over Lake Lashi at dawn. (by Li Zhixiong)

2. Sailing out to fish with his cormorants. (by Xi Zhinong)

3. A life of harmony between people and birds. (by Li Zhixiong)

4. Lake Lashi in a morning mist, looking like a fairytale. (by Xi Zhinong)

TAKING PICTURES OF BIRDS AT LAKE LASHI

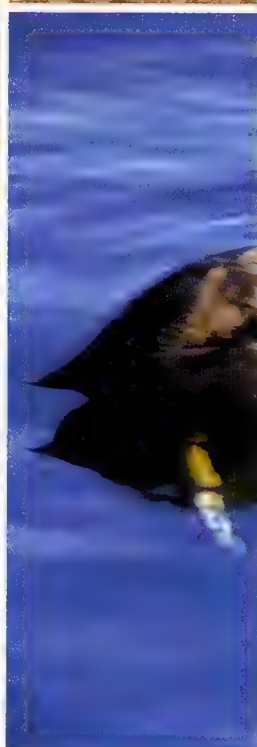
See Lijiang as a Photographer

Most birds were awake. As the sun climbed higher, I set up my tripod. The first large flock of birds which came in sight were ruddy shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*). Their feathers gleamed in the rising sun with dazzling golden light. I remember that I had been told when a boy that feathers of ruddy shelducks were painted with gold. I looked into the lens and found the screen sprinkled with dark dots. When I looked closer, I could tell those with prominent features such as mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), coots (*Fulica atra*), and the bigger-sized

bar headed geese. I also turned the focal length to 800 mm. Through the view-finder, I saw clearly that the grey dots were green winged teals (*Anas crecca*). Amidst them were also spotbill ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*). Occasionally, there were tufted ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) and mergansers bobbing in water.

The cawing of a crane wafted over the water. I quickly turned to look. I saw two flocks of cranes flying towards me from the other side of the lake. The cranes were awaked. This species followed a strict life

*Tens of thousands of migrating birds visit
this harmonious place between man and the nature.*



regime. They wake up when the sun rises and then left there roost and flew to find food. I hurriedly fished out my binoculars and found out they were only common cranes (*Grus grus*). Would the hooded cranes be among them? I searched carefully but could not find it. Soon they flew past over my head.

As the sun climbed higher, wild ducks grew lively. A flock of ruddy shelducks took off water and headed for land. They shook their feathers, stretched their wings, and began to enjoy the



warmth of the sun. Some of them paired up and preened each other's feathers. Others strutted around or sometimes fought one another for a better place in the sun.

To get a better view of them, I mounted a 400 mm zoom lens onto my video camera. The focal distance of the lens added up to 2,800 mm. I turned the lens towards a group of green winged teals on the lakeshore. It was the first time I observed them so closely. Shining drops of water fell from the beak of a bird. It looked really cute through the telephoto lens.

Suddenly a bird with "pigtales" rushed into my view-finder. It was a tufted duck. The reason for its name is the beautiful crown on its head. Its feathers had iridescent and change colour in the sun, gleaming purple and gold. It moved swiftly fluttering over the shallow water. I was told that it was catching flying insects and worms in the water.

I kept pressing the shutter release and took pictures of flocks of cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), mergansers catching fish and hovering black-headed gulls (*Larus ridibundus*). I worked on and on until my battery died.

Tips:

Transport: There is no bus running between Dayan Town of Lijiang to Lake Lashi. You may take a taxi in Lijiang to go to the lake. Fare: 30 yuan.

Accommodation: You may stay in the hostel of Lashi Town at a price of 10~20 yuan per night for one bed or with local residents.

Best season for bird watching: November to April of each year. Most birds come in February and March.

Clothes: Temperature in the morning and at night is around zero, and it is rather windy. Bring a pair of gloves and a weathercoat. The colour of your clothes are recommended to be close to the environment. Do not wear anything bright.

Equipment: A pair of binoculars will enable you to see contours of birds only. If you want to see them clearly, you need a real good telescope (15~40 times). For picture-taking, you need a long lens over 600 mm.

1. A ruddy shelduck looking for food in Lake Lashi in winter. (by Xi Zhinong)
2. Details of a mallard can be seen in a lens of a 300 mm length. (by Xi Zhinong)
3. A pair of common cranes strut along the lakeshore. (by Xi Zhinong)
4. A swift successful attack of a coot. (by Xi Zhinong)
5. Beginning a new day with morning exercises by lakeside reeds. (by Xi Zhinong)



CHALLENGING THE YULONG SNOW MOUNTAIN

See Lijiang as a Climber

Photos and article by Yi Jiabao

The Yulong (Jade Dragon) Snow Mountain are comprised of 13 peaks. The main peak is known as Fan Peak (Shanzidou) and no one has ever reached its summit.

One day my friend Zhao Wei and I met Big Hu, interpreter Xiao Chen and four German mountain climbers, William, Peter, Harry and Humphrey, who flew from Beijing, at the Lijiang Airport. We planned to climb the snow-capped Yulong Mountain together.

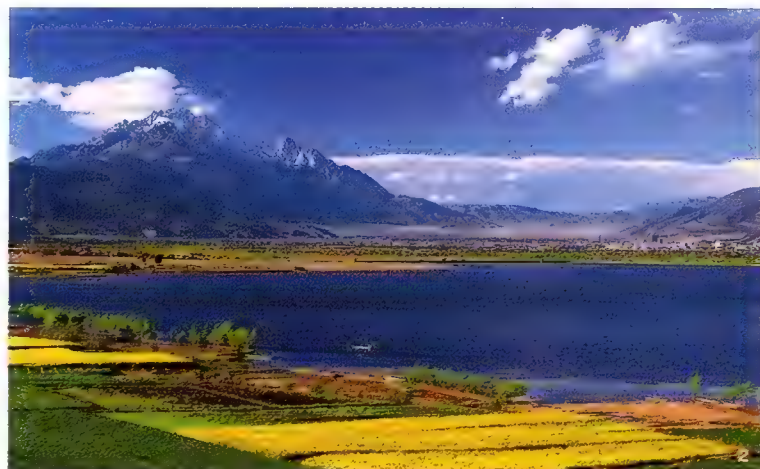
With breakfast under our belt, we set off from the hotel. A minibus took us to Yuhu (Jade Lake) Village where the bus was unable to go further. We hired six horses to carry our gear and continued our journey following behind them. When we got to the valley, it was 1:10 p.m. A dry river bed lay at the bottom of the valley. After a short break and a drink of water, we travelled along the riverbed. There are low golden hills at the foot of the cliffs and no sign of life, even birds. The grey rocks looked stark and even cruel. There was no sound except our footsteps and the crunching of horses hooves. In a small grove of trees 50 metres in length and 20 metres in width, we pitched our tents.

Early next morning, the entire area was enveloped in heavy fog. As we climbed upward, we could not see the path ahead. Led by Zhao Wei, we clambered through rocks for some two hours and became very sweaty. During our next break, the perspiration on my back turned unbearably cold. Stones rolled down the slope from time to time. Harry and Humphrey lost the heart to go on and said that they would return down the slope. With that, they turned back. Zhao Wei, William and I kept climbing.

We came to an abrupt halt before a smooth, sheer rock face. There was no way to continue. The trough-shaped obstacle was ten metres long and four metres wide. Both of the side walls and the bottom were smooth. The bottom fell away at about a 50-degree angle

while the walls on both sides grew higher by one to three metres. There were small intermittent cracks in the walls on which we could have handholds and footholds. Unfortunately, six metres ahead of us, there was a deep crevasse on the bottom. Zhao Wei was first to jump into the "trough" and crossed the large gap by moving along the sidewall, pressing his body to the wall and clutching the cracks. I followed him jumping down and inching forward slowly along the wall, my fingers grasping wall cracks tightly. I am of small build and when my right hand stretched to catch a handhold, my right foot could not reach the next foothold. The foothold on which my left foot stood was very narrow. I had to use both hands and clutched the wall with all my might. My body shook slightly and my hands trembled as I clung to the wall. The backpack on my back seemed to drag me downward. Time passed by second by second. I'm done for, I said to myself. I was stuck in such a strange position that I did not know what to do next. "Would I kiss life goodbye like this?" I breathed heavily, my mind racing. "Here, here!" There came the voice of Peter, indicating there was another handhold. I quickly shifted my right hand to that handhold, and got both feet on the ground. Thank God! I was still alive. It was really a narrow escape from death.

Then we came to a steep ridge covered with stones. It was about five metres to the top from where we stood. Again Zhao Wei quickly climbed up and crossed it. He was followed by Peter, who kicked a stone which landed on William's head. Blood oozed out immediately. Placing a bandage around his head, we continued for about 20 metres, but William began to feel dizzy. We decided to return to the tents.





"Would I kiss life goodbye like this?"

I breathed heavily, my mind racing.

The third day was again foggy. William said that if we did not try again, we would have no hope of climbing to the mountaintop. So we decided to make another try. Zhao Wei, Big Hu, William and Peter each carried two days' rations and set off. I was asked to stay back to look after the tents. It began to clear up around noontime. The four of them looked like ants moving slowly upward. In the evening, it began to snow. I began to grow worried for them. That night my dream was interrupted and I was awakened by a thunderous roar of rocks rolling down a mountain slope. It lasted five minutes. That only increased my agony.

Around three o'clock in the afternoon of the fourth day, I caught sight of the four climbers descending half way down the mountain. So they were all safe. I hurriedly prepared a meal of a large pot of rice with slices of potato and ham, and a large pot of turnip, carrot and ham soup. They were delighted at the hearty, delicious meal. While enjoying his meal, Big Hu said, "We climbed up to 4,415 metres, and last night we could not find a flat place to erect our tents. So we managed by sleeping by a huge rock. Because the snow was very

heavy and conditions worsened due to a thick fog, we had to retreat. Visibility was very poor."

On the fifth day, we gave up trying to climb to the mountaintop and returned to Lijiang that day. When we were having our dinner in a restaurant near the Lijiang Square, we came across two Americans, who are brothers. They told us that they were going to climb the Yulong Snow Mountain....

Tips: You may use the cable-car at Yunshanping for 60 yuan to go up the Yulong Snow Mountain. The admission fee for entering the mountain is 40 yuan per person. Anyone who wants to climb mountain must find other climbers in Kunming to go as a group. Normally, in the one-week-long Labour Day holiday in May or National Day holiday in October, many exploration organisations in Kunming organise climbing activities. Those who are interested may make a request in advance, and an AA payment system is in place for these activities.

1. A teammate heads to the top of Yulong Snow Mountain by pulling a rope. (by Yi Jiabao)
2. The refreshing plains in Lijiang. (by Wu Yamin)
3. A teammate entering a giant ice cave. (by Yi Jiabao)
4. Yulong Snow Mountain is beautiful but difficult to climb. (by Wu Yamin)



A VISIT TO THE LAST MATRIARCHAL SOCIETY

Trace Local Customs in Lijiang

Photos by Li Zhixiong and others
Article by Shi Gaofeng

In one of the backwaters of the world, there exists a society dominated by women. This is the cradle of Mosuo people. The mountain there is called Nushan (Woman Mountain) and the lake is called Muhu (Mother Lake). We paid a visit to Lake Lugu on the plateau of northwestern Yunnan.

◆ A Mysterious Lake in Evening Twilight ◆

We set out from Lijiang and headed north to a place called Lake Lugu, also known as "A Kingdom of Women". It was overcast with occasional drizzle and rather windy along the way. Everyone seemed somewhat crest-fallen. As our jeep rounded a bend, a lake suddenly came into view. We drove into a nearby village called Luoshui, a settlement of Mosuo people, in the evening twilight.

We pulled up in front of the house of Mr. Gewa. The damp air after a rain smelled of mugwort and fish. Melancholy violin music wafted in the evening breeze. I looked up to see a middle-aged man standing in a canoe, playing violin. The plaintive tune lingered over the surface of the lake. When the musician caught sight of me, he nodded and continued playing. The tune was accompanied by the sound of water lapping against the lakeshore. Only after night fell did the music come to a halt. The sound seemed to waft into the clouds and mountains.



The uncle (as the locals call "Ah Wu") of Gewa told me that that violinist was a musician from Beijing and had been here for half a year. He rented a room and came to the lakeside punctually every morning and evening. The lake, sky, clouds, water, mountains, and islands in the lake and the local residents all had an indescribable air about them in the lingering music.

◆ The Legend of Pig's Trough Boat ◆

At night, a wind picked up from the lake. The wooden gate of the house creaked in the breeze. In the sitting-room, the whole family sat around a fire chatting and eating melon seeds. Only the elderly and children were at home with us. All the young men and women had gone to perform dances for the tourists.

The elders, warmed by the fire, sipped tea and chattered. It was a picture of family harmony and coziness.

At my request, Mr. Gewa Genruo (84 years old), the eldest uncle, told me a story about Lake Lugu.

Long, long ago, there were only a few large villages and there was no lake in this area. In one of those villages, there lived a dumb orphan who looked after all the sheep and cattle of the village. One day, the boy was so exhausted and hungry that he fell asleep while leaning against a big tree. In his dream, he met an elderly lady with gray hair who told him that there was a large fish which blocked a cave entrance in Mt. Gemu, and he could go and cut pieces of the flesh from that fish for food. The next day, flesh would grow back again. When the dumb boy woke up, he went to that cave and, sure enough, there was a large fish. From then on, he ate fish for lunch everyday when herding sheep or cattle up in the mountain. But as time went by, some greedy men discovered his secret. They used nine oxen and nine horses to pull the fish out with ropes. As the fish was dragged out, a water surged out of the cave and drowning the forest and rushing towards the village. A mother who was feeding some pigs saw the torrent of water approaching and immediately put her two children in a wooden trough used for feeding the pigs. The mother was drowned but the two children were saved. In commemoration of this mother, canoes are made in the shape of the trough and are called "pig's trough boats" by the local people.

By such stories, the Mosuo people relay from one generation to another the relationship between humans and nature. They encompass their taboos, their ethics and their way of life. To a nationality without a written language, myths and legends serve to carry down their history and philosophy.

The first night in the village by Lake Lugu I listened to the wind and rain outside the window and the chirping of insects on distant islets. I could not fall asleep and thought a great deal.



◆ **Journeys with One's Life at Stake** ◆

When dawn came, I heard the violin again. The metallic sound of the music made me open the window. It was the same man facing the pale twilight and islets on the lake. The music was sad, persistent and fascinating, making the whole lake a shade cooler. The autumn seemed to grow deeper.

When the sun rose behind the mountain range, the music stopped suddenly. The Beijing violinist disappeared. Boys and girls in their

festive costume walked along the lakeshore, ready to row boats or lead horses for the tourists. Nowadays, the beautiful nationalistic costume has become work clothes for tourism.

Gewa Genruo came to the lakeshore and sat down in his usual place to enjoy the sunshine. He was calm as though he were a tree stump. Nothing seemed to bother him. Was he a witness of 80 years of history at Lake Lugu? Li Zhixiong and I approached him. Obviously the old man was rather lonely. He was very pleased to have someone to chat with. We were surprised to find him a man of world. He said that when he was a child, his family was very poor. At the age of 14, he earned a living herding horses. After a whole year of hard work, all he got was a meager payment. In those days, the only way to

get rich was to do business by passing the Ancient Tea Caravan Route. Both the rich and the poor did something with the caravans. Sometimes, the caravans laden with goods set off from Lijiang, went

1. Picturesque lake, pig's trough boats and Mosuo girl... a typical scene at Lake Lugu. (by Li Zhixiong)
2. Local people having picnic. (by Li Zhixiong)
3. Elders come to pray around the mani pile at dawn or dusk. (by Li Zhixiong)
4. Goddess Mountain Peak of Gemu towers towering over Lugu Lake. (by Xu Ji)

A VISIT TO THE LAST MATRIARCHAL SOCIETY

Trace Local Customs in Lijiang

to Dali and then Burma. Sometimes, they went as far as Tibet, Nepal and India. It probably would take a whole year to go there and back. It was a journey at risk to one's life. The old man worked as a horse groomer for a caravan for 16 years and the payment he got for all those years' hard work enough to buy only five horses. When he was 31, he started his own caravan and took it to Burma, Nepal and India. He had been to Lhasa five times. Talking about those hard journeys, he got very depressed.

His family was a typical matriarchal family. The two elders of the family were brother and sister.

In a Mosuo family, the mother is the head. All members of a Mosuo family are descendants of either the grandmother or mother. Only maternal blood links matter. A person only has, in their family, a grandmother on the maternal side, great uncles on the maternal side, a mother, uncles on the maternal side, sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews; but has no grandfather, grandmother, uncles, or in-laws on the paternal side. A woman always stays at home and her children are family members. A man's children live in his lover's home. There is the so-called "visiting marriage system" (actually, no marriage between the man and woman at all). A man goes to his lover's home at night and returns to his mother in the morning. If they have a child, the child will be looked after by its mother only. The man only looks after the children of his sisters.

We asked a few local residents what they thought about such an

arrangement between a man and a woman. They all replied, "It is good! Why? There are no tangled family contradictions." Some would even add, "You Han Chinese have too many family problems."

◆ A Dialogue on Monogamy ◆

One day, Gewa Genruo's great nephew Ciliduojie asked Li Zhixiong about monogamy. So Li, a reporter, was interviewed. "How can you live with an outsider (marrying a wife) all your life? Don't you feel troublesome?"

"Yes, it is really troublesome."

"How can one be so heartless to leave his mother and forms another family with another woman?"

"Our custom is different from yours."

"Does one love only one woman all his life?"

"It is hard to say."

"Are you people really so heartless to let your sisters suffer in others' homes?"

"In our society, when a man marries a woman, the woman goes to live with this man. In the past, it was all decided by parents."

"In this way, a person becomes an object, isn't that so? And they can be given to anyone else? What if a girl feels sad if she is married off? Will her father have no feelings about this? What would you do if she is maltreated by her man?"

"It can't be explained in one sentence."

Obviously, he was not happy with Li's answers. He had a lot more questions to ask but hesitated.

◆ Lake Lugu Assaulted by Modern Commerce ◆

Ciliduojie took us to a local bar, saying it was a lot of fun. The owner was named Tang Bin, a man from Sichuan, who had lived there for several years. He was fond of the tranquil environment and beautiful scenery. Owning a bar was only for making a living. What amazed me was that there were more Mosuo boys and girls than tourists in the bar. Tang unknowingly provided a recreation place for local youngsters. Since a family is formed under a mother and her brothers, the rest of the family are sisters and brothers. It is not like a monogamous family in which people live in a more relaxed way. So Tang's bar provided a good place for youngsters to let off steam. In a place like this, they could court, joke with one another, chat and so on. No wonder, Ciliduojie said that it was a fun place.

In the bar, I noticed some notices put up on the wall by tourists. One Cantonese wrote on a piece of paper, "I've come from Lijiang despite all the trouble to get here only to find a modernized Mosuo village. Please tell me where are the genuine Mosuo people?" Another wrote, "I'm here in search of a natural environment and to be one with nature. But what I see here is a commercialized Lake Lugu. Where on earth is the Mosuo culture?" There were many such comments. The tourists' disappointment is of course understandable. They have good reason to complain. Perhaps they have read or heard too much from



*"How can you live with an outsider (marrying a wife)
all your life? Don't you feel troublesome?"*



media, and think Mosuo people still live a primitive life. When they come to Lake Lugu to see all the lights, telephones and televisions, and they become disappointed. Some even fancy having a night with a local girl. Since they know little about Mosuo custom, they are naturally disappointed. Perhaps they are fed up with the hustle and bustle in a city and long for a more natural life. But their fantasies are shattered. They find Lake Lugu too commercial and are disappointed. I also heard complaints from the Mosuo people too. "It's all changed! It is so chaotic!" they said. "Tradition has been disrupted. Nowadays, no youngster would dismount from his horse to show respect to an elderly person when they meet on a road. It's all upside down." In my view, the Mosuo people have the right to choose between an idyllic life and a life with electrical lights and telephones. It is not a big deal to have a little bit of chaos. What is important to any nationality or individual is how to survive while enhancing the quality of life. No one lives for the pleasure of tourists. What is essential is that the Mosuo nationality never loses its own identity. I believe in the strength of culture. No matter how the world changes, a nationality's soul and feeling can never be assimilated. Just like Ciliduojie and Li Zhixiong, two different peoples can never be made into the same person.

◆ A Big Stir Caused by Cen Lacuo ◆

Cen Lacuo was the first person in the area of Lake Lugu to open a family hotel. This is very common in most parts of China. But in Lake Lugu, it caused a big stir.

Around 1992, Lake Lugu was declared open to the outside world.

Tourists began to come to this area. Taking this opportunity, Cen Lacuo, a beautiful and smart Mosuo woman, persuaded the elders at home to let her use her wing house to open an inn. This was well received by tourists. Living with a local family is the best way to learn local customs. However, there was pressure on her from other villagers. Some elders said that such practices would jeopardize their quiet life. Tourists come from all parts of the world and who knows what kind of diseases they might carry with them. They come today and leave the next. Before you had a chance to become familiar with their faces, new faces appeared. Others said that to do business at home ran counter to Mosuo custom. How can the audacity to ask for money from a guest staying at your home? For a time, it was the talk of village. More pressure came from those Mosuo people working in the towns. They worried that outsiders staying in a Mosuo family would cause disputes because to different lifestyles. They also worried that their liberal marital practice would become jeopardized or, worse still, turned into a mercenary relationship. What if a Mosuo girl gave birth to a baby with golden hair? That would be a laughing-stock to other nationalities.

After one year, Cen Lacuo earned 40,000 yuan. It was an astronomical figure in those days. This was unheard of and caused a

1. People can find a wide variety of notes, business cards, and messages in a bar. (by Li Zhixiong)
2. Every evening, young people have a dancing party. Tourists are welcome to attend. (by Li Zhixiong)
3. The development of tourism has brought considerable economic benefit for the local people. Many people of Mosuo nationality earn a livelihood from tourism. (by Li Zhixiong)

A VISIT TO THE LAST MATRIARCHAL SOCIETY

Trace Local Customs in Lijiang

great stir in the village. Tradition was broken and many villagers began to run household inns. But, this led to more conflicts between villagers. They fought overtly or covertly for customers. Friendships of the past diminished. Resentment and hatred grew between neighbours. Some relatives stopped visiting one another. The primitive commune life formed over the past several thousand years disappeared on the wind. At this time, the first village rule appeared. It stipulated that no one was allowed to fight for tourists; it was up to the tourist to decide which household inn he or she wanted to stay at. Each family must provide its own members to participate in horse riding, boat rowing, dancing, etc. The income would be divided among the villagers equally. Then, Lake Lugu resumed its calmness. What is significant is that the rule of "what the eldest says goes" was abolished. Now a new rule came into being, which is progress due to commercialisation.

◆ Falling in Love by Lake Lugu ◆

Wu Yue was a Han Chinese girl from Guangzhou, a metropolitan city in China. Before she came to Lake Lugu, she never dreamed that she would fall in love with a Mosuo boy. When I met her the first time, I found her to be a calm person, not the emotional type at all. She said, "This is destined by fate and can't be resisted. It was decided in my

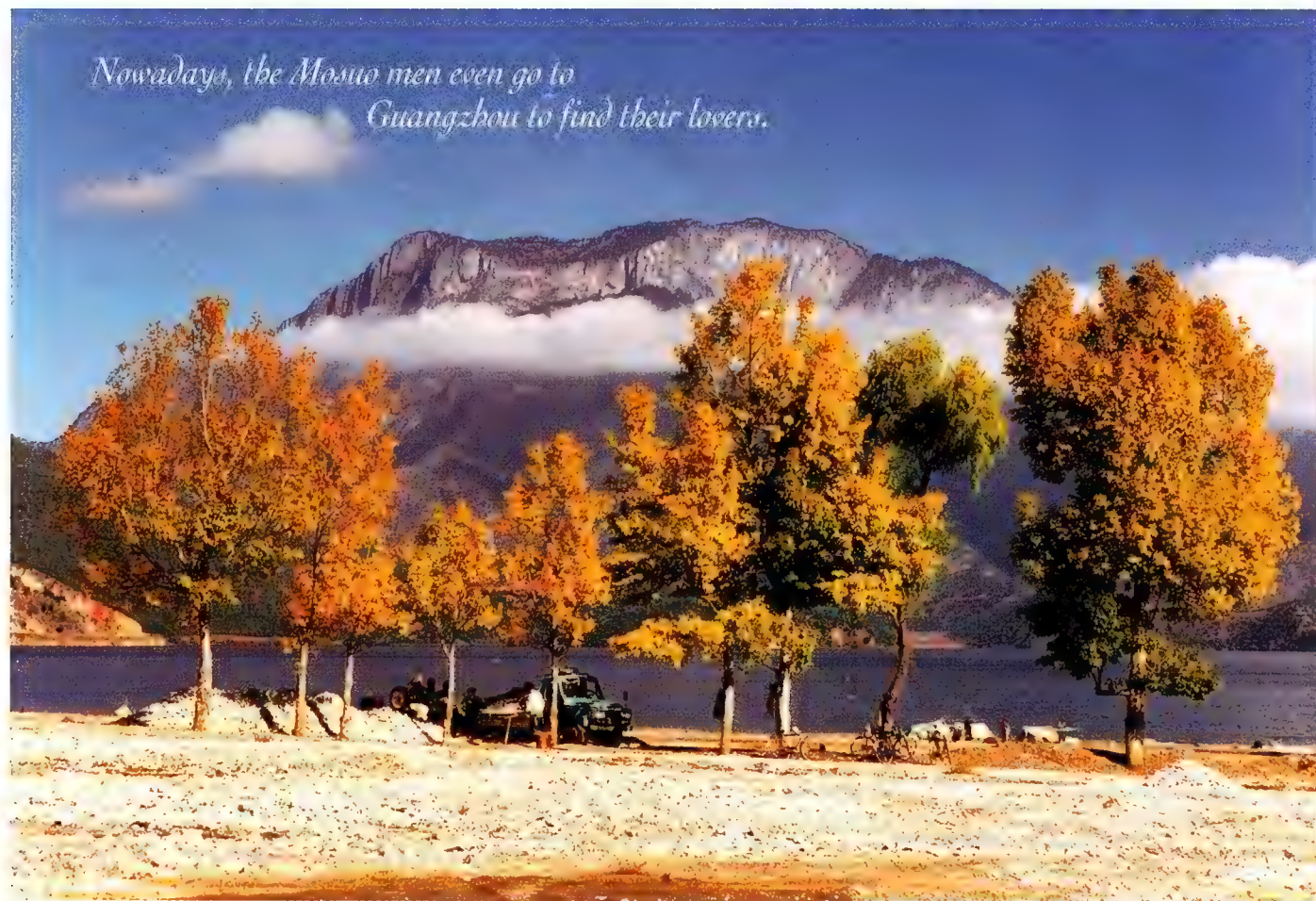
former life that I would be a Mosuo woman."

Back in July 1998, Wu Yue and her friends came to Lake Lugu for a visit. Fact was that she had been invited by her friends to travel in the South to alleviate her mental anguish from the process of signing a divorce agreement. It never occurred to her she would meet and fall in love with Lurucier. It was love at first sight. She said that in the past she had never before experienced what she called "an impulse of soul." She used to be cool-headed. "Perhaps the unique natural and cultural surroundings of Lake Lugu triggered a romantic element in me that had been dormant for years."

She had emotional strains too. She was divorced and had a three-year old kid. Besides, Lurucier was six years younger than she. To a Han woman, these are difficult barriers. Sensibility made her leave Lake Lugu. When she got to Lijiang, she realized that her mind could not get off Lake Lugu. She felt as if she was but a mindless shell. The next day, she returned to Lake Lugu. Her friends thought she was out of her mind. Even her parents, well-educated people, believed she had gone crazy. Even now, they still cannot accept it. But she hasn't the slightest doubt about her decision and feels happy to have made such a choice. She told me a dialogue between her and Lurucier:

"You are six years my junior, do you mind?" she asked.

"Is that very important? Only if you are younger than me would it



*Nowadays, the Mosuo men even go to
Guangzhou to find their lovers.*

be considered reasonable, right?"

"I'm not divorced yet, and have no idea what troubles I have yet to go through."

"Divorce or not, it's your concern. Here we do not have such a concept. What counts is love."

"I've a child three years old."

"So what? It's your child. All children of Mosuo men live in others' families. In my home, there are children of my sisters only. So your child is not a problem for me."

Wu Yue found it easy to communicate with this man. There was nothing standing in their way. On the contrary, it would not be easy to explain things to her husband. So she stayed behind. One month later, she found herself pregnant. Mental struggles arose again. But Lurucier said without any hesitation, "Go ahead and give birth to our child. I'll look after the baby." According to local custom, a girl should stay with her mother. Now Wu Yue was all on her own in Lake Lugu. So she moved into Lurucier's home. The whole family of Lurucier was delighted and they lived in harmony. Wu Yue said to me, "I should have born a Mosuo girl. To be with them, I have not experienced any of the heavy pressure I used to have. All is so simple. It is better to have a simple relation between human beings."

◆ Mosuo Youngsters Stick to Their Traditions ◆

When their child was born, the baby was basically cared for by Lurucier's sisters. The two of them had no need to worry about child care. So Wu Yue took Lurucier to Guangzhou. But he could not get used to city life. After a year in Guangzhou, he said that he had almost gone mad. "I admired very much the city life shown in films and television programs. But while living in Guangzhou, I was bored to death. What is there to see except tower blocks, motor vehicles, and crowds of people? Everywhere, the water is polluted, the air stinks and is stuffy in the heat. People who live in the same building pretend not to know one another when they meet in the street. What's the point living in such a place? Boredom, hatred, I could not find a smiling face. No one has the freedom to sing or dance any time he or she wishes. Forget it. So I went back home." When I asked how they planned their future, he said, "Wu Yue has her own business in Guangzhou and she is used to the city life. So she may stay there. Whenever she misses me, she comes and stays with me for a time. It's pretty good." This is in fact a new type of Mosuo life. In the past, a man and his woman lived in the same village or at most in neighboring villages. Now one of them lives as far away as Guangzhou.

Later, Wu Yue returned to Lake Lugu and, together with Lurucier, opened a "Window on Mosuo Culture" displaying cultural objects of the ethnic group to tourists. When asked if there were any conflicts between the two of them, she said frankly, "Due to differences in culture and values, there are problems. For instance, my child is two years old now. Any one of his sisters may teach the boy. They want

me to do the same to their children. I can't bring myself to do that. Besides, it is not encouraged that a child be told who his or her real mother is. There should not be any differences between mothers. It is difficult for me to accept this notion."

Lurucier also said, "Wu Yue believes that she is the most important person to me. This is not possible because I also have my mother and sisters. They are also important to me. Wu is a member of the family and can't be more important than any of the others. It is the same with my child. He is just like my sisters' children. I will not give my child special treatment. This is the Mosuo people's way of life."

In fact, this is where the power of culture lies. The young Mosuo people do sing pop songs, wear jeans or Western suits, but essentially stick to their traditions.

To the strains of violin music, we reluctantly left Lake Lugu, leaving that mysterious musician to carry on his eternal dialogue with the lake and mountains.

Tips: There is bus service from Dayan Town of Lijiang and Lake Lugu. The bus terminal is located at the passenger station. Fare: 20 yuan. There are many household inns in Luoshui Village providing room and board for around 15-30 yuan per person for one night.

1. Autumn scenery on the west shore of Lugu Lake. (by Xu Ji)
2. Cen Lacuo is having her photo taken with her family members. (by Li Zhixiong)
3. The traditional wooden house on the shores of Lugu Lake. (by Li Zhixiong)





A TOUR OF SIFANG STREET

A Nostalgic Trip

Photos by Li Zhixiong and others

Article by Shi Gaofeng

Standing on Shizi (Lion) Mountain, I looked down at the ancient town of Lijiang at Sifang (Square) Street, the hub of communications of the town. Upturned roof corners on the houses reminded me of gray cranes. The serried houses of the street resembled a flock of gray cranes alighting and, before retracting their wings, frozen in space. Each black tile seemed to be telling its own story.

The ancient city of Lijiang was first built in the late Song Dynasty (960—1279). No wall was built around the town. This is because the surname of chieftains of Naxi nationality was “木” (pronounced as “mu” in Mandarin, means “wood” in English). If an enclosure wall was built around the “木”, it would become “困” (pronounced as “kun” in Mandarin, means “being besieged” in English). So they chose not to build a wall around the town. However, as it was surrounded by mountains which reminded one of a large ink-slab, it was also known as Dayan (Large Ink-slab) Town. This ancient town, despite the wind and rain over centuries, still preserves its traditions and customs. A 1.4-square-kilometre area of serried residences is well preserved. It is regarded as a treasure of ancient architecture and has been designated by the UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

When I entered the town, my first impression was that each household had a fountain and each courtyard had willow trees. Walking along those quiet lanes, I seemed to have gone back in history in a time machine. What particularly caught my attention was the unusual patterned, colorful stone pavement with prints of horse hooves on them. For a moment, I felt that history was recorded not only in textbooks but on stones, wood and earth as well.

◆ Lifting the Sluice Gate to Wash the Street ◆

When I entered a small wooden door facing a small alleyway, I expected to see a row of rooms, but to my surprise, it was a compound with five courtyards, each surrounded by houses on three sides. Each courtyard was filled with flowers: crabapple, orchids, peony, camellia, azaleas, etc. A sweet smell lingered in the air. Under an eave carved probably by a grandfather or great grandfather, a song bird chirping resonantly was perched. Dusty woodcarvings in the compound displayed the efforts of more than ten generations of craftspeople.

Sitting in a wooden chair, an elderly lady gave a detailed account of each bridge, each tree and each house, and the stories that happened here and their heroes and heroines. She knew all those alleyways like the palm of her hand.

The ancient town is crisscrossed with small alleyways. Water from Heilong (Black Dragon) Pool flows into each household. Like arteries for blood in a person, it spreads everywhere. You can see crystal clear water everywhere in the town. The design of the town was very scientific from its inception. Houses are all built along the waterways, and the whole town is a network of waterways. One always feels cool and homely, not dry and desolate in such a place. On the top end of the Sifang Street, there is a sluice gate. At days end when the bustling street is quiet, the sluice gate is lifted and water gushes and washes all the dirt from the street. The

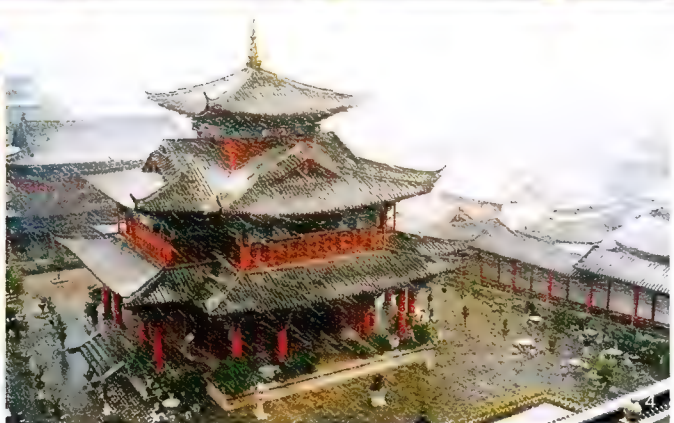


street becomes clean and tranquil again. According to some experts who come to survey the place, the design and layout of this town is ingenious. It might take several volumes, they say, to cover its architectural and design expertise.

1. The ancient town is crisscrossed with waterways which not only adds charm but also makes life easier for local residents. (by Xu Ji)
2. Maijiwandou (Selling Chick Peas) Bridge over the West River in Lijiang. (by Xu Ji)
3. A Naxi residence built in the design of quadruple court. (by Xu Ji)
4. Mufu (Wood Palace) in the snow. (by Dong Gua)



The surname of Naxi chieftains was “木” (wood). Building an enclosure wall around the town, it would become “困” (being besieged).



A TOUR OF SIFANG STREET

A Nostalgic Trip



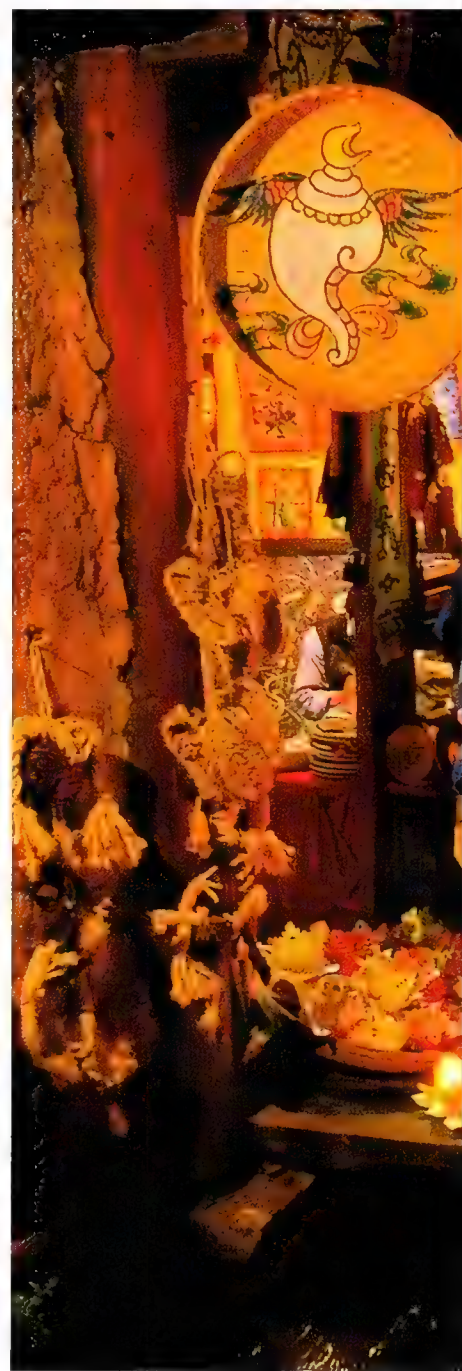
◆ The Hub of the Ancient Tea Caravan Route ◆

With the Sifang Street as the hub, five streets fan out in this ancient town. Construction and renovation over a thousand years have left the best part of the town intact. Alleyways, wide or narrow, all have their unique characteristics, their own personalities and provide their own unique experiences.

To the east and west of Sifang Street, there is a straight main road lined with shops selling cloth, books, daily necessities and so on. Their owners are mostly women. What is worth noting is the shop doors. They were not the folding doors or burglarproof doors that we usually see, but temporary doors made of wooden boards. When the first light of morning enters the gauze windows, owners remove the boards one by one and lay them to one side before beginning the day's business. At dusk, with the disappearance of the last sunbeam, they put the boards back. Local residents all know where to buy what they need. When one wants to buy pickles, one goes to the Fu Family's Pickle Shop. Because the pickle recipe has been handed down from Fu's ancestors and the pickles are wonderful. If rice cakes are desired, one goes to the shop run by Rice Cake Commander (Baba Siling). The rice cakes made by this shop are so good that it is known far and wide in the area. When one wants to buy bean jelly, one goes to Aunt He's Stall. Everybody in the street know who is the best calligrapher, who is good at painting and who's rice sausage is the best. There are many stories about the stores and their owners.

To the north of the Sifang Street is a zigzag road named in the Naxi language "Ah Ying Chang" and in Han Chinese Niu Jia Hang (Cow's Family Lane). It was named after the residents in the lane, who all had the surname of Niu. It was said that Ah Ying Chang had once served as a base of the Yuan troops led by Kubilai Khan during his expedition to conquer the Dali Kingdom. In Naxi, Ah Ying refers to the Yuan troops. Chang means place. There is an open space in the center of this street. In olden days, it was a market for selling straw. Historically, Lijiang was a hub of communications along the Ancient Tea Caravan Route. It served as a logical collection and distribution centre of goods for merchants from Yunnan and Tibet.

People rode horses here from all parts of the country, and horse grooms would have to buy straw for their horses at Ah Ying Chang. There used to have an annual horse and mule fair at Lijiang. Those in the business all knew that Ah Ying Chang was the place for buying straw. The elders today still remember romantic stories about the caravan men. Not very far away from Ah Ying Chang was another road known as "Chuan Du Wa". This street was lined with inns for the caravaners. These inns were packed with horsemen and their goods. Barn lanterns glowed everywhere at night. Horsemen sang all night over their wine. The stone road of Chuan Du Wa was witness to that period of time. Peter Goullart, a Russian who once lived in Lijiang for over ten years, wrote in his book *Forgotten*



Kingdom (1955), "Without help from the women, you can't procure or buy anything in Lijiang. To rent a house or buy land, people have go to these intermediary businesswomen who know all the ropes. Afraid of being duped, dealers would not negotiate directly without first getting the advice of the women. When Tibetan caravans arrived, the merchants turned their goods over to the businesswomen or risk being cheated." It is not difficult to imagine that this Russian drank wine in shops run by these women while he carefully observes the Naxi people's life. In his book, he describes many events that happened on Sifang Street that are little known to today's. He wrote that many a merchant found themselves business partners with the local women.

No one knows how many commendable Naxi women did business on this street. The stories have receded into history. Today only the descendants of the businesswomen live on in that street after having turned to other businesses.

◆ Peaceful Life on Sifang Street ◆

To the south of Sifang Street is a junction with one road running east

1. At a ritual ceremony of the Naxi Dongba religion. (by Xu Ji)
2. Local women with seven-star scarves form a circle at a local festival. (by Liu Jianhua)
3. Floating lanterns on the river, a local custom occuring in the mid-seventh month of the lunar calendar. (by Li Zhixiong)

*The elders today still remember
romantic stories about the caravan men.*



A TOUR OF SIFANG STREET

A Nostalgic Trip



to west and another south to north. The street is called "Jian Luo Guo" in the Naxi language. In Mandarin, it is named Xianyunke. It is said that the earliest outsiders who came here to do business were from Dali. They began renting rooms in this street first. So the street was called Jian Luo Guo, or Dali Lane. In those days, merchants from Dali had

fat wallets and did a brisk business. Gradually, local residents learned how to do business with them and became competitors. Women, in particular, started up shops selling salt, ham or seasoned meat, etc. As their business grew, Dali people had to retreat. Even today, nine shops out of ten on that street are run by women. If you don't believe me check it out for yourself.

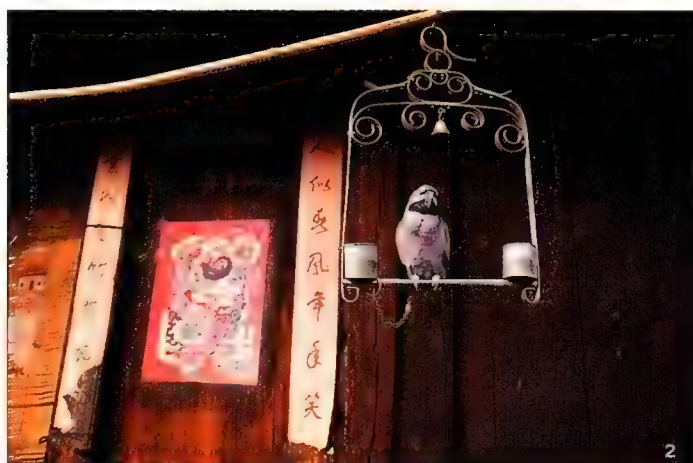
The neighboring street is Ji Li Pu, i.e., Baisui Fang (Hundred-year-old Lane). There are a number of people well over a hundred years old, hence the name. This street has produced many celebrated men. In the reign of Daoguang in the Qing Dynasty arose the Ba Gong, a title given to selected candidates from counties and prefectures, who were then sent to take part in the imperial examinations in the national capital. Many learned people lived on this street. Another street is in Naxi, Shi Gan Di, or in Mandarin Pig Slaughter Street. Pigs from the area were slaughtered in this street. Another street is called Zhi Shi Luo, or Copper Street. Here tinkers, and gold, silver and copper crafters plyed their trade.

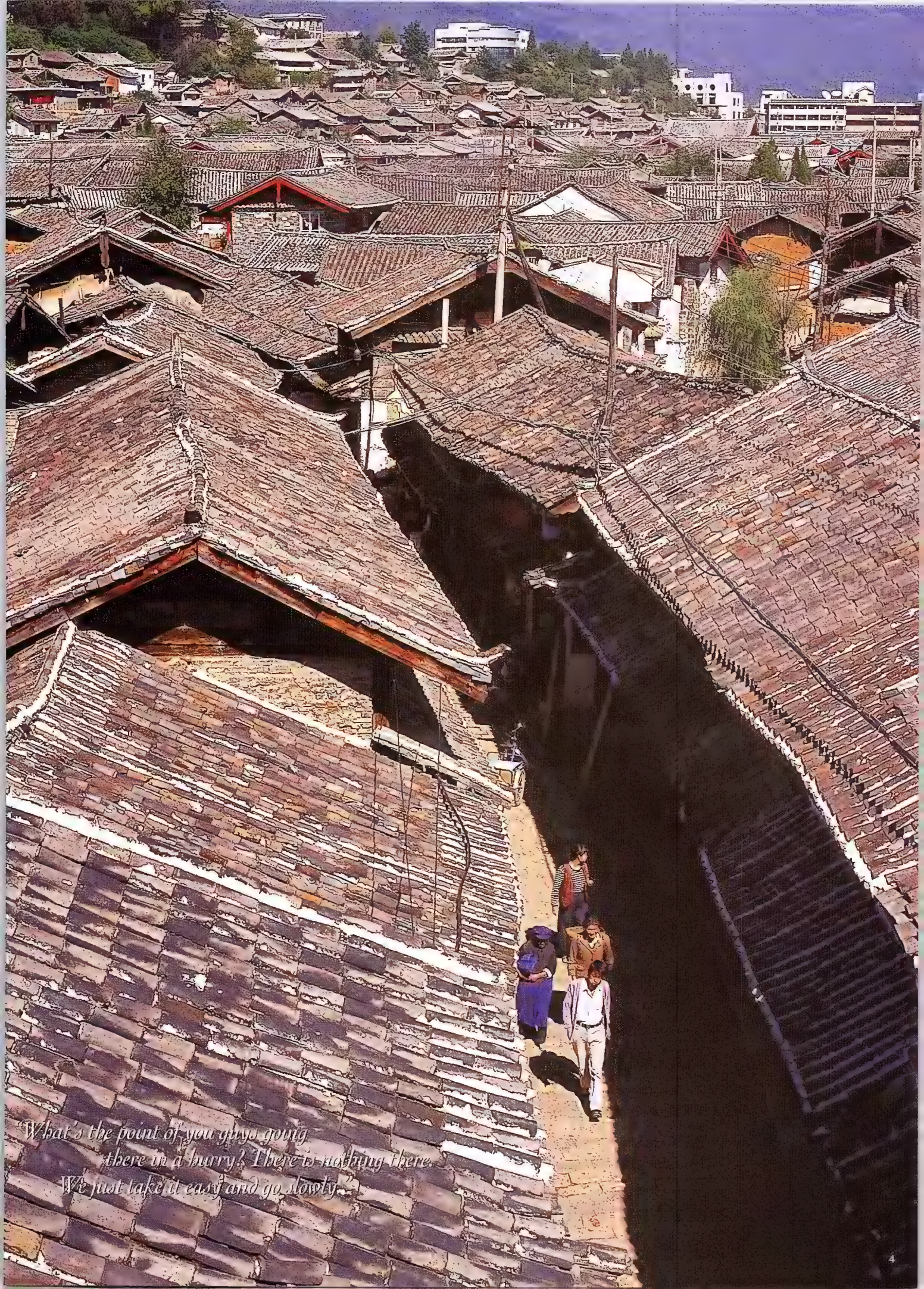
The architecture, carvings and culture of Lijiang are classic. Unlike many other places of cultural heritage where historical relics are nothing but lifeless objects, these not only belong to the past but also the present. That is the reason it has attracted people searching for real nature. Life there is not dynamic or bubbling over with excitement, but is tranquil and peaceful. When I was there, I heard a very interesting story. Once a foreign reporter came to Sifang Street trying to cover the life of the place. As the sun's first light appeared from behind a mountain, he saw an old Naxi man sitting at the end of a lane that crossed Sifang Street. After a busy day of picture-taking, he returned to the place as the sun began to sink, and saw the old man again. The elderly man still sat there enjoying the sun. All he had done was that he had turned around to face the sun. The reporter found this incredible. So he approached the old man and struck up a conversation. He told the man about the swift pace of life in the United States and great efficiency of the

Japanese economy. That old man listened attentively. When the reporter finished, he said, "Young man, we Naxi people have a saying." The reporter quickly took out a pen and a pad, expecting some famous Naxi motto. "We believe that one goes towards one direction only after he has left his mother's womb." "Which direction?" "The grave." After a pause, he continued, "What's the point of you guys going there in a hurry? There is nothing there. We just take it easy and go slowly."

It is not important whether this is a true story or not. However, there is a message in it that one should know how to enjoy life, relish life and be grateful to life. Life goes on step by step. Just like the mosaic tiles paving Sifang Street, any piece missing would be a defect. Time ticks away second by second, just like water flowing inch by inch down Sifang Street. Shouldn't we slow down our pace of living in order to relish life itself?

1. Elderly Naxi people lead a relaxed life and normally they have a healthy and long life. (by Liu Jianhua)
2. Bird cages hung under the eaves on an aged street. (by Dong Gua)
3. Cattle and other domestic animals are kept in the courtyards. (by Dong Gua)
4. Looking down at the residences, one feels that each tile seemed has story to tell. (by Li Zhixiong)





*What's the point of you guys going
there in a hurry? There is nothing there.
We just take it easy and go slowly.*



LISTEN TO ANCIENT MUSIC OF THE NAXI NATIONALITY

Photos by Li Zhixiong, Zhang Jianfeng
Article by Mao Sheng

Experience Local Customs as a Music Lover

You cannot be counted as having been to Lijiang if you have not listened to the ancient music of the Naxi nationality. Many who have been to Lijiang would agree.

In the east side of the ancient town, there is an antique-looking courtyard with buildings on three sides. On its gate hang a plaque written with the words "Lijiang Dayan Ancient Music Society". This was where Mr. Xuan Ke organized performances of ancient Naxi music. For more than a dozen years, he has been showing visitors from all over the world the cream of Naxi culture.

After supper, I went there and found a seat in the courtyard amidst many visitors both Chinese and foreigners. They anxiously waited for the performance to begin. Before long, even the corridors around the yard were filled with people. There was a pair of couplets on the posts of the stage saying "Inheriting Dongba Culture so as to preserve a unique living fossil; co-existing with residential structures so as to make the town known by both sight and sound". This has defined the three main features of the place: ancient music of Naxi, Dongba Culture and ancient architecture of Dayan Town. I noticed that on the surrounding walls hang many silk banners written with words like: "Light of Naxi", "Holy Sound", etc. One horizontal plaque bore the words: "A successful performance visit to Britain by Lijiang Dayan Ancient Music Society". These further aroused my curiosity to listen to the music. Most of the musicians were getting on in age. Dressed in Mandarin tunics and long gowns with golden rims, the formal dress of the Naxi people of the old days, they sat stately on the stage with their eyes half closed as though waiting for a sacred moment to arrive. In

their arms were various musical instruments which I had never seen or heard about before. A huge Ming-dynasty drum was put on a rack on the left side of the stage. In the middle were ten gongs and a bronze chime called "benling" dating back 400 years.

At 8:00 p.m. sharp, Xuan Ke, the host, appeared on



the stage. Wearing a blue gown, he looked thin and fragile. He had a scholarly air about him. He said first in Chinese and then in English that the ancient music of Naxi was a combination of Taoist music, Confucius ritual music and music of the forefathers of the Naxi nationality. What was precious about this music was that many tunes of the Tang, Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties long since lost in other places are well preserved in the Naxi music. The man was eloquent and his humour sent the audience into peals of laughter and applause. Finally, he performed a melody for the audience.

In the wake of his recital that sounded remote and ancient, a gong sounded and the music started. The melodious music, soft and crisp, reminded me of the Great Tang Dynasty. A line of a Tang poem written by Li Bai came to my mind: "Her robe is cloud, her face a flower / Her balcony, glimmering with the bright spring dew." Then the elderly musicians closed their eyes, obviously moved by their own music. "Such melody exists only in Heaven / How many times can one hear it on the earth." Towards the end of the melody, music seemed to surge with life then flow evenly, and finally die away.

In the second month of the 29th year of the reign of Kaiyuan (741) of the Tang Dynasty, Emperor Xuanzong composed two dance melodies, namely, Zi Wei Ba Gua Wu (Dance of Purple Subtlety Constellation and Eight Diagrams) and Ni Shang Yu Yi Wu (Dance of the Rainbow Skirt and the Feathered Coat). Mr. Xuan Ke said, "Those two melodies are recorded in *Dao Zang*. For many years, it was believed by experts on



ancient music that they were long since lost. The Naxi people have preserved the Zi Wei Ba Gua Wu in its entirety. What a great contribution the Naxi people have made to Chinese culture!" With that, he stood with his arms akimbo, looking very proud of his people. The audience broke into warm applause.

Then he shouted, "Where are the singers?" At this, three girls in Naxi costumes having a pattern of the stars and moon entered the stage. To the beat of clappers, they began to sing to the tune of *Waves Sift Sand* (classical Chinese poems, known as *Ci* or *Qu*, can be sung in different tunes). The words of this piece were written by Li Yu (937—978), king and a *ci* writer of the Later Tang Dynasty. The lines go like this: "Without the blind the rain is pattering/ Last intimation of the spring/ Those gauzy coverlets too little warmth at midnight bring to one... Visions of what I left slightly bring me no more mirth/ Than fallen flowers faring home upon a running stream/ Heaven is high, and man

1. Since the young people have joined the ranks of performers, the traditional music of Naxi will not lack worthy artists in the future. (by Zhang Jianfeng)

2. Ma Guotou, who used to climb the mountains, plays a *huqin*, a two-stringed Chinese fiddle. (by Li Zhixiong)

3. Xuan Ke talking to foreign tourists. (by Zhang Jianfeng)

4. The performance arena of Naxi traditional music. (by Zhang Jianfeng)



*I have listened to horse-herding ditty,
sheep-herding ditty, and ox-herding ditty.
This was the first time I heard a pig-herding one.*



LISTEN TO ANCIENT MUSIC OF THE NAXI NATIONALITY

Experience Local Customs as a Music Lover



is on earth." The melodious tune was extremely moving.

I have listened to many Chinese folk ditties such as the horse-herding ditty, sheep-herding ditty and ox-herding ditty. This was the first time I heard a pig-herding ditty. The soprano sang joyfully and humorously. Pig calls were part of the aria. Sometimes, the singer even imitated pig's snorting. In a dramatic way, she showed her affection and sense of pride for pig. The music was humorous and melodious.

"We have still kept some traditions of a matriarchal society," Xuan Ke said. "Women are diligent and capable and manage the household. A family's wealth is reflected by the number of pigs it raises. So if she herds a large herd of pigs, she must be very happy and proud. This also shows that she is clever and smart. Didn't you feel the warmth between the girl and her pigs?" This sent everyone into laughter.

Then he continues, "The Naxi women all want to be Big Women (meaning women of importance) while men want to be Small Men. The bigger a woman grows, the more work she has to tackle. Since they have done everything that needs to be done at home, we men have little to do. What a comfortable life it is! So I am most grateful to my woman being a Big Woman too. Otherwise, how can I find the time


to stand here and speak to you about ancient Naxi music?"

I have been to many concerts both foreign and Chinese. But this was the first time I had attended an ancient music performance of this kind. Xuan Ke is a learned man and speaks good English. In addition he is a superb musician. Before each selection he gave a brief introduction in Chinese and then English. He told us its origin and its characteristics so as to help the audience to better understand the music.

The grey haired elderly Naxi musicians played the tunes of *Sheep on the Mountain Slope* and *Ode to A Water Dragon* and other ancient melodies. The audience held its breath listening attentively with wide eyes.

After each selection there was loud applause. I was amazed and surprised. On a moonlit night in the remote ancient town of Dayan surrounded by mountains, ancient Naxi music had incredible magic power. It simply held people from all over the world spell-bound. It was a merger of the ancient and the present, a meeting of Chinese and foreign cultures, a harmony of things indigenous and foreign. This is, I think, the very best of Chinese culture.

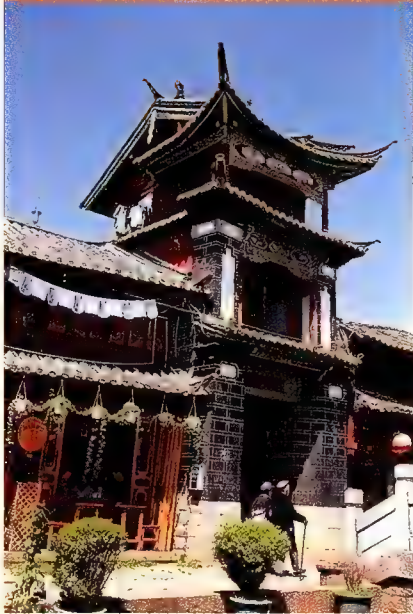
That night many thoughts went through my mind. It was indeed an unforgettable experience.

Tips: There are three orchestras performing ancient Naxi music in the ancient town of Dayan in Lijiang. The one organized by Xuan Ke is the most popular. The price of a ticket is 55 yuan. 

Translated by Wang Mingjie

1. The aged are the most attentive audience of Naxi traditional music.
(by Li Zhixiong)
2. Folk Naxi traditional music bands rehearse on a regular basis.
(by Li Zhixiong)



Tips for Travellers**Transport****By Air:**

Lijiang has flights between large cities in Yunnan such as Kunming and Xishuangbanna, as well as other cities in China like Shanghai and Beijing. For more information, please refer to Executive's Memo on page 84-85.

By Land:**Kunming — Lijiang**

Dongfeng Road Stadium (luxury bus with air conditioning), 4 times daily (8:30, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00), 8 hours, 152 yuan;

Nanyao Bus Terminal (bus with sleepers), 3 times daily (18:30, 19:00, 20:00), 8 hours, 10 yuan;

West Station (bus with sleepers), 3 times a day (18:30, 19:00, 20:00), 10 hours, 110 yuan;

Dali — Lijiang:

Passenger Transport Centre (luxury bus with air conditioning), 4 times daily (8:00, 14:00, 16:00, 19:00), 3 hours, 52 yuan;

Passenger Transport Centre (medium-sized bus), every 20 minutes, 3-30 hours, 25 yuan;

Panzhihua — Lijiang:

Passenger Transport Centre (medium-sized bus), once daily (8:30), 8 hours, 60 yuan;

Panzhihua Station (bus with sleepers), once daily (11:30), 8 hours, 60 yuan;

Zhongdian — Lijiang:

Passenger Transport Centre (medium-sized bus), 7 times daily (7:10-16:00), 5 hours, 28 yuan;

Car Hiring:

Lijiang — Yulong Snow Mountain: 140 yuan (slack season), 220 yuan (busy season);

Lijiang — Tiger Leaping Gorge: 180 yuan (slack season), 270 yuan (busy season);

Lijiang — Lake Lugu: 420 yuan (slack season), 520 yuan (busy season);

Transport Service Within the Town

Name	Address	Tel.(886)
Lijiang Passenger Transport Centre	Changshu Street, Dayan Town, Lijiang	5125953
Ticket Office of Lijiang Civil Air Service	Shangri-la Boulevard, Lijiang	5161291
Ticket Office of Lijiang Yiting Civil Air Service	1/F., Fuhai St., Lijiang	5161668
Gaokua Passenger Bus Service Centre	Shangri-la Boulevard, Lijiang	5183758

Taxi:

Minimum fare: 6 yuan(Xiali); 7 yuan(Santana).

Lijiang Delicacies

Wheat roll: Wheat of Lijiang is well-known for its quality. Flour from this wheat can be made into various rolls and cakes by the Lijiang people. Multi layered deep fried rolls are very tasty and crisp. In addition they can be roasted.



Naxi bread: Steamed Lijiang wheat cake is called Naxi bread. When flour dough is kneaded and brewed a while, it can be made into cakes. Roast the cakes until they are brown on one side, turn them over and steam them. They are crusty on one side and tender on the other. Sandwiched with a little bit of bean sauce, they are most delicious.

Chick peas noodles: This is a specialty of Lijiang. The beans look like eyes of a chicken. The green bean paste can be made into a cold side dish, deep-fried and eaten with some sauce, or made into a soup.

The No. 1 Noodle of Lijiang:

Dashiqiao (Big Rock Bridge) noodles made of soy bean is known as No. 1 Noodle of Lijiang. These noodles are semi-transparent. According to the shop owner the noodle is prepared using a recipe handed down from his ancestors. To go with the noodle serve soy beans, spring onions, chillies and



vinegar. Soup made of these noodles is aromatic and refreshing.

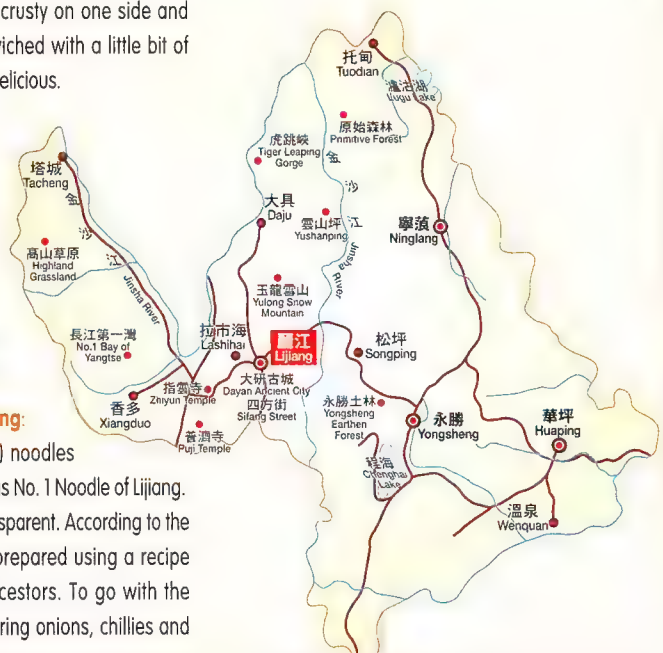
Eight Big Bowls: It is not available in Lijiang. According to local residents, this is prepared only for banquets occasions, weddings or funerals. Tourists will not get an opportunity to try it. The portion is so large that two or three people will not be able to finish eating it.

Three Courses: These are only served at grand banquets, but may be available in large hotels. The first course is sweet; the second is a dish of various kinds of birds and game; and the third is corn soup with rice cooked in a copper kettle.

Wine: This mild wine is home brewed. Heat it before serving.

Accommodation

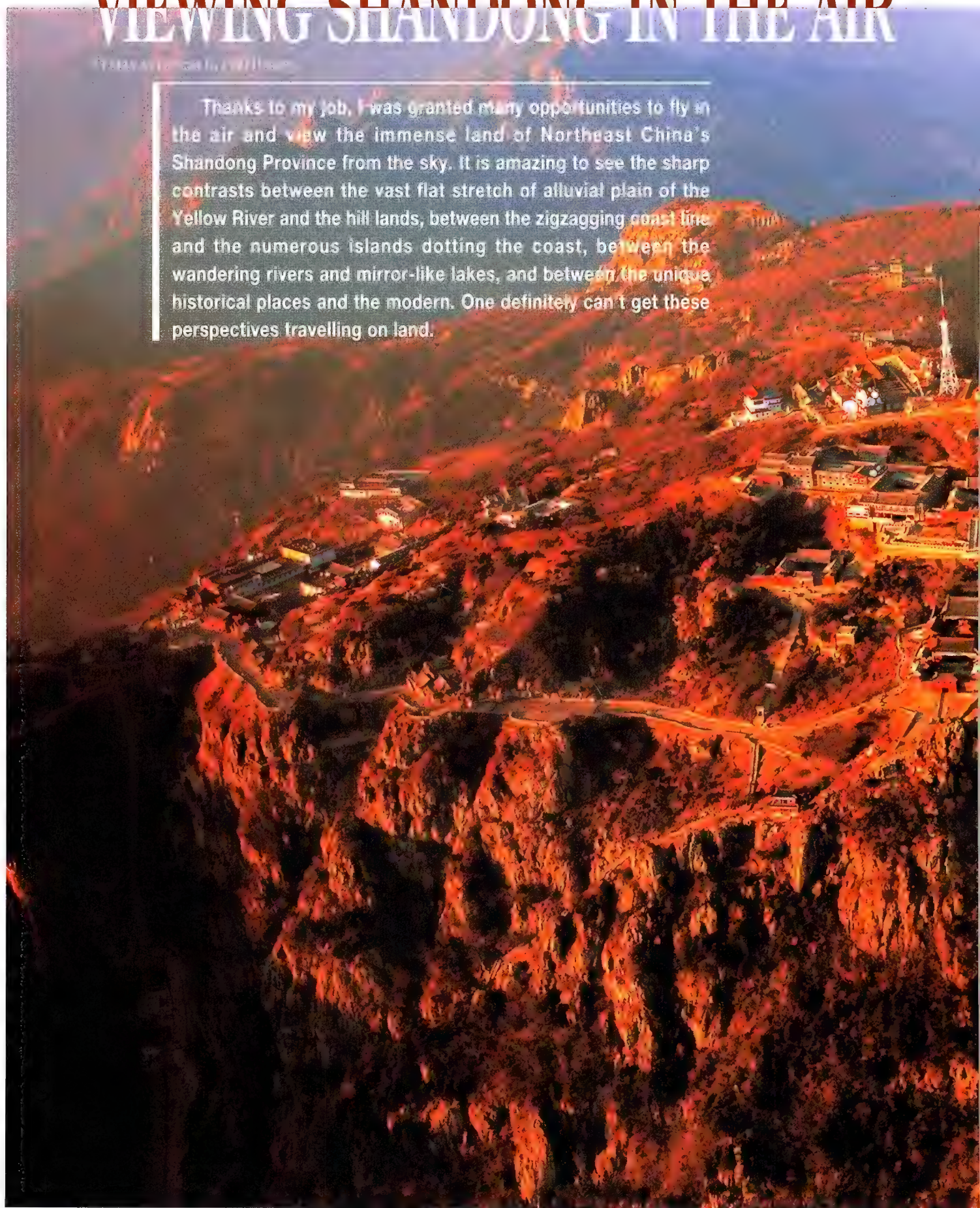
Lijiang can provide accommodations for 15,000 tourists at a time. Apart from the hotels, there are a large number inns run by local Naxi residents. The fee is around 10-30 yuan per person for one day. They are inexpensive and it is a good opportunity to experience Naxi people's life.



VIEWING SHANDONG IN THE AIR

BY MARY GRIFFITHS

Thanks to my job, I was granted many opportunities to fly in the air and view the immense land of Northeast China's Shandong Province from the sky. It is amazing to see the sharp contrasts between the vast flat stretch of alluvial plain of the Yellow River and the hill lands, between the zigzagging coast line and the numerous islands dotting the coast, between the wandering rivers and mirror-like lakes, and between the unique historical places and the modern. One definitely can't get these perspectives travelling on land.





MOUNT TAISHAN

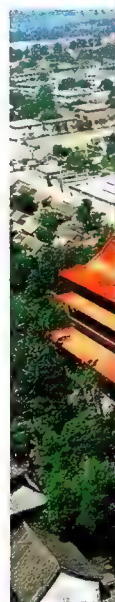
Although only 1,545 metres above sea level, it has long been considered the "No. 1 of the Five Sacred Mountains". Because of its imposing manner, it is a symbol of the Chinese people's fond wish for "peace in the country and happiness of the people".

For over two millennia in Chinese history, more than 80 emperors travelled to Mount Taishan to make sacrifices to heaven, hoping that their power to govern would be stable and last forever. These visitors left on the mountain countless sites of historical significance. They form a harmonious whole with the unique natural landscape. In 1987, the UNESCO incorporated the mountain in the World Heritage Sites list.

Thrusting up out of the eastern edge of the North China Plain Mount Taishan stands in sharp contrast to the surrounding plain and hill land in Shandong Province. Since remote antiquity, people could only look up at its towering peak. It was not possible to get a bird's-eye view of it. Modern aircraft have made it possible for me to get such a view.

One day in mid-autumn, I flew over the highest peak of Mount Taishan in a small helicopter to take pictures in the setting sun from an altitude of 2,000 metres. This brought to my attention all the ancient architecture and major scenic spots, like the Bixia Temple, Zhanlu Platform and Yuhuang Summit. I also viewed the newly built highway coiling up the mountain and the tourist hotels, which add a sense of the modern to the famous mountain.

The staircase from Shenxian Archway to Nantian Gate is called "Shibapan" (18 Bends). Enveloped between towering cliffs, it rises abruptly 740 metres in less than one kilometre. It looks like a ladder hanging from heaven. Though a cableway has been built now, most tourists still prefer to climb the mountain on foot, perhaps to personally experience the majesty and sacredness of the mountain. Viewed from the air, "Shibapan" appears extremely steep and people climbing along it look like slowly moving ants. Time and again, aerophotography revealed its advantage. Looking down from the air, majestic Mount Taishan loses its towering perspective. What I saw was its grandeur and vastness.



ESTUARY OF YELLOW RIVER

The second largest river in China, the Yellow River runs through Shandong Province for 610 kilometres from southeast to northeast before emptying into the Bohai Sea, making it the major source of water for northwestern Shandong and other coastal areas.

the estuary of the river and creates new land. The heavy sediment forces the river to change its course frequently. From 1855 to 1953, the course of the river changed 11 times, once every ten years. Since 1953, however, the river has not changed its course.

In recent years, the speed of land formation by the Yellow River has slowed down. This does not mean, however, that soil erosion on the loess plateau has lessened, but only that the runoff of the river has

The delta at the estuary of the Yellow River is the largest in China. It is also a delta undergoing the most rapid change expanding at an annual rate of more than 20 square kilometres and extending into the sea 1.4—1.8 kilometres a year. This youngest area of land has its source on the loess plateau several thousand kilometres away. Every year, the Yellow River carries 1 billion tons of soil into the sea, some of which is deposited at

become less and less, with no water at all in some sections. Because of the reduced runoff, much of the soil it carries is deposited mid way.

Due to the unique geology in the Yellow River estuary, it is impossible for people to come and take pictures. Only aerophotography makes it possible for me to take pictures of the magnificent sunrise views at the estuary.

CONFUCIUS TEMPLE IN QUFU

Confucius, a great philosopher in ancient China, was born in Qufu in southern Shandong. Confucianism established on the basis of his thoughts has been an important pillar of traditional Chinese culture for more than 2,000 years.

enclosed by high walls. Within the walls, are densely growing huge pines and cypress. The major structures include five halls, two smaller halls, one court, three shrines, two study rooms and 17 pavilions. As seen in the picture, the highest and largest structure on the right side is Dacheng Hall, the centre of the Confucius Temple. In the courtyard there are 13 stele pavilions, which were built to house steles that record the deeds of emperors in various dynasties. The steles chronicle the rebuilding of the temple and sacrifices to Confucius. In addition, there are more than 2,000 steles of other kinds, making it one of the largest stele forests in China. The major building on the left side is Kuiwen Court, a structure with three-tiered eaves. It houses inscriptions by emperors of past dynasties.

No other architecture can display the sublimity of Confucianism more fully than the buildings in the Confucius Temple in Qufu. The compound, modelled after imperial palaces, is located in the centre of the old town of Qufu. It was the place to make sacrifices to Confucius throughout history. Viewed from the air, nine courtyards line a north-south central axis of more than one kilometre. The whole compound is

CHENGSHANTOU

The easternmost tip of China, it is a place where people witness the earliest sunrise in China, thus the name "Cape of Good Hope in China".

The Shandong Peninsula boasts more than 3,000 kilometres of coastline, accounting for one sixth of the country's total. Along the long coastline, Chengshantou is an important landmark. The place got its name from the fact it is the eastern end of the Chengshan Mountains. Surrounded by sea on three sides, it is under the jurisdiction of Longxudao Town in Rongcheng County. It is only 94 nautical miles across the sea from the Republic of Korea.

Chengshantou is also known as "Tianjintou" (The End of Heaven). In 219 B.C., Qinshihuang (First Emperor of Qin) reached Chengshantou on his tour to the east. Thinking that he had reached the end of the universe, he ordered Li Si, his prime minister, to inscribe a stele with the characters "The end of Heaven and eastern gate of Qin" and had it placed on top of the summit of the Chengshan Mountains. Due to millenniums of weathering, the stone stele has broken into two halves, the top half falling into the sea. The base of the stele on the mountaintop is 120 cm high. According to studies by experts, the stone is different in quality from that mined locally. Thus, they confirmed that the stele was truly erected in the Qin Dynasty. Now, Chengshantou has become a tourist attraction that combines natural scenery with man-built structures.

NEW QINGDAO

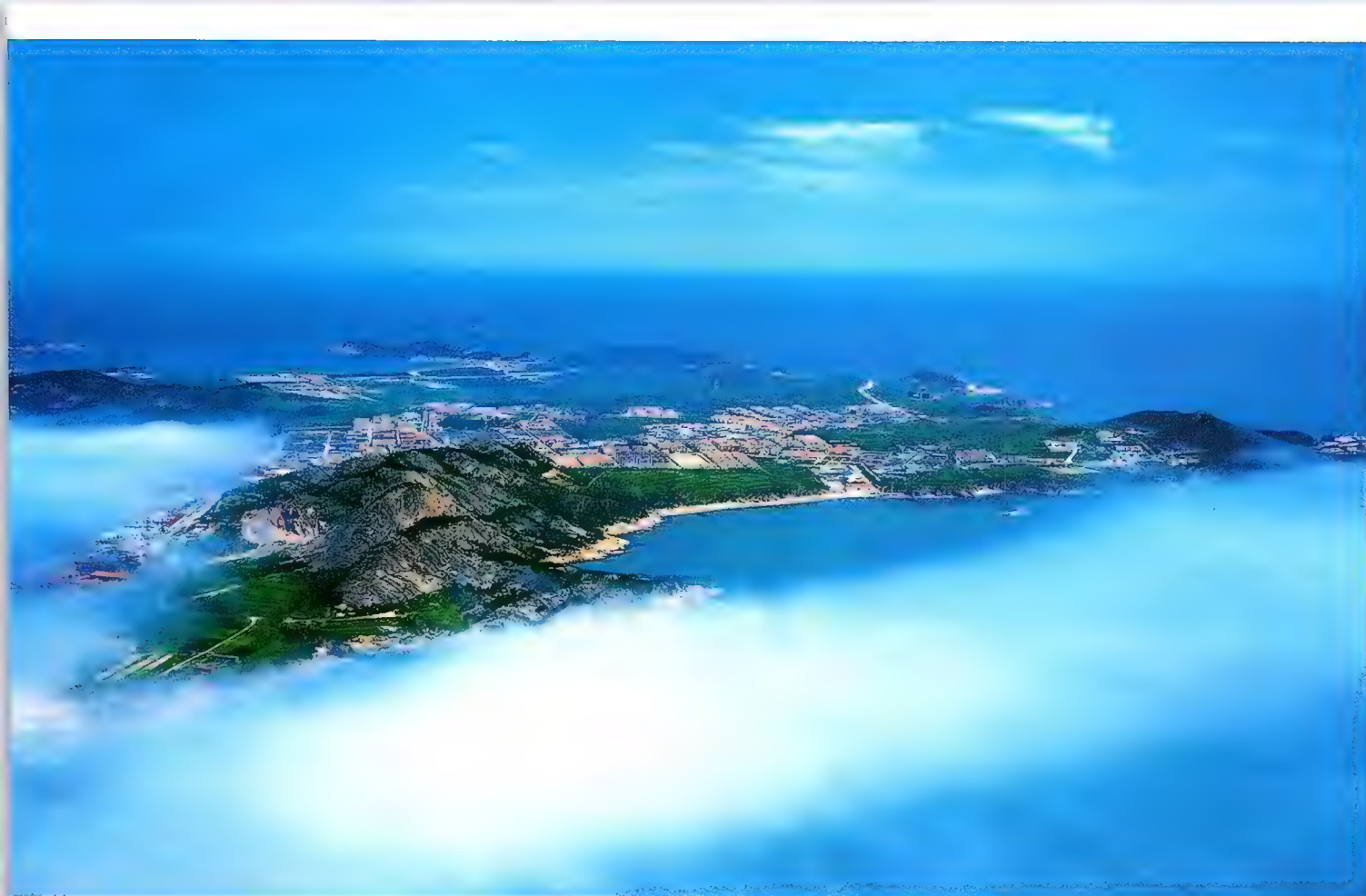
One hundred years ago, Qingdao was only a small fishing village. Later, it fell under the colonial rule of Germany and Japan, which brought to the city a foreign look.

Qingdao, which fell under foreign colonial rule for a few decades, suddenly witnessed a great phase of development at the end of the 20th century. A new district shot up in its eastern part. In early 1992, the municipal Party committee and government decided to move their offices from the prosperous old city to the new eastern district. This has helped turn it into a hotspot for investment by both domestic and foreign businesses. In a few short years, the district quickly grew into Qingdao's political, financial, commercial, cultural and tourist center, the symbol of new Qingdao.

The centre of the new city starts from Shandong Road in the west, ends in Ya'erdao Road in the east, and starts in Minjiang Road in the north and terminates in Fushan Bay in the south. It boasts many uniquely designed high-rise buildings and a garden-like environment. The Hong Kong Road Central (formerly Zhanliugan Road) was widened to 100 metres, the widest in the new city of Qingdao. However, the most typical place in the new district is the "May 4th Square." It is located to the south of the Hong Kong Road and Donghai (East Sea) Road. Along the central axis of the district is the office building of the municipal government, the hidden fountain, the matrix fountain and a group of huge sculptures, all echoing the 100-metre fountain on the sea. With a modern atmosphere, the new area of Qingdao has gradually achieved the image of an international metropolis. It forms a sharp contrast to the old city to the west.

Flying over the new city, what strikes one most is one the perfect merger of the new city with the sea and other natural features.





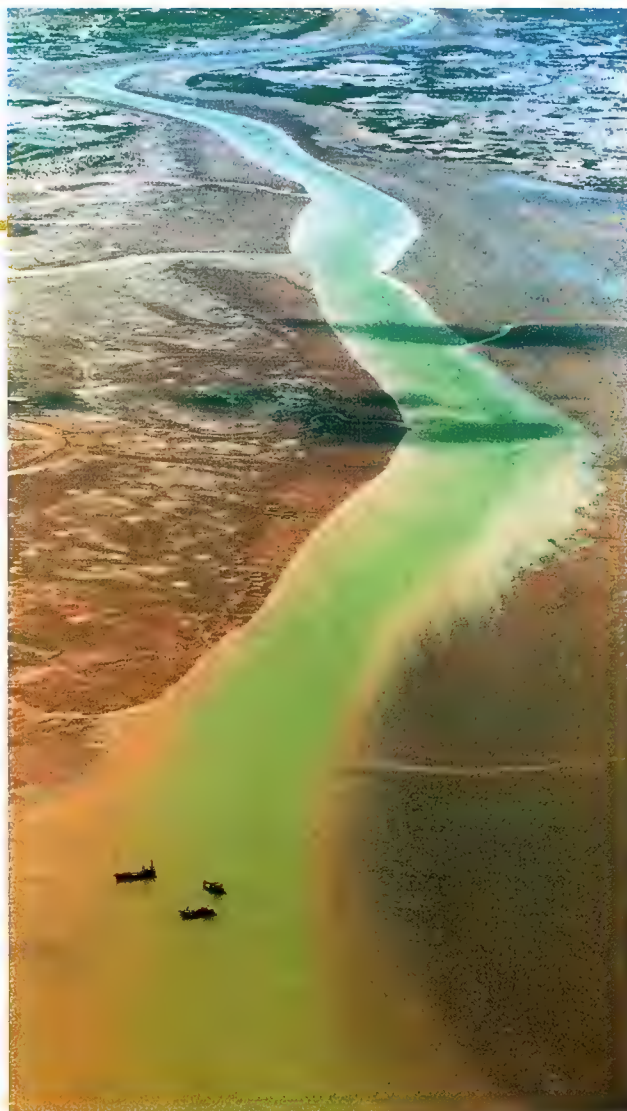
WETLAND IN THE YELLOW RIVER DELTA

Vast, it boasts the largest, most extensive and youngest wetland eco-system in the temperate areas of the world.

With Lijin at the northernmost tip, the delta formed by the Yellow River estuary and its old course covers about 5,400 square kilometres. Mainly evolving after the course change in 1855, it is mostly not yet cultivated alkaline land. There are large tracts of marshy wetland in the lowland reaches of the delta.

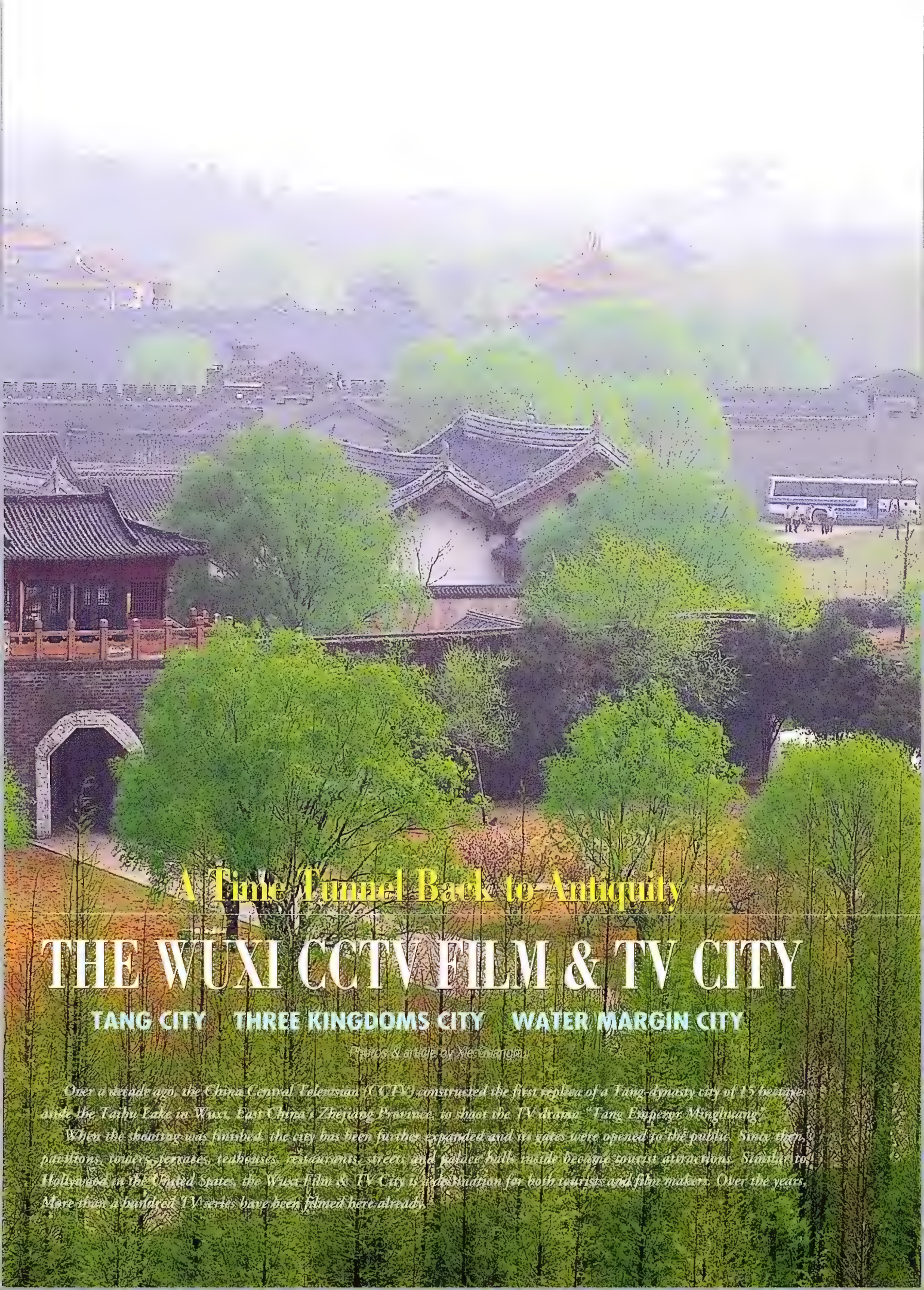
People in modern society pay more and more attention to ecology and they consider wetland the "kidney of nature". In the world, China is one of the countries with the largest area of wetlands. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the protection of the wetlands in the Yellow River Delta. In 1992, a state-class natural preserve was established there, covering 153,000 hectares, mainly to give protection to a prototype for wetland eco-system preserves and to protect birds.

The Yellow River Delta region has a temperate monsoon climate, and boasts a rich variety of plants and animals typical of the coastal region. A unique type of eco-system, the delta boasts 116 varieties of marsh plants, more than 800 kinds of marine plants and 187 species of birds. Of them, 32 kinds of birds are rare, such as the red-crowned crane and hooded crane, which have been named important species and placed under state protection. Thanks to its unique natural environment, the wetlands in the Yellow River Delta have become an important sanctuary for many inland birds of northeastern Asia and the Pacific who use it to rest on their migration or to winter.



ON THE WAY





A Time Tunnel Back to Antiquity

THE WUXI CCTV FILM & TV CITY

TANG CITY THREE KINGDOMS CITY WATER MARGIN CITY

Photos & article by Xie Changhui

Over a decade ago, the China Central Television (CCTV) constructed the first replica of a Tang-dynasty city of 15 hectares aside the Taihu Lake in Wuxi, East China's Zhejiang Province, to shoot the TV drama "Tang Emperor Minghuang".

When the shooting was finished, the city has been further expanded and its gates were opened to the public. Since then, pavilions, towers, terraces, teahouses, restaurants, streets and palace halls inside become tourist attractions. Similar to Hollywood in the United States, the Wuxi Film & TV City is indispensable for both tourists and film makers. Over the years, More than a hundred TV series have been filmed here already.



1

In touch with the Prosperous Tang Dynasty

After I got up in the morning, the first place I visited was the oldest part of the Wuxi Film & TV City, the Tang City. Passing through a watchtower, I found myself standing face to face with a large sculpture work portraying immortals. Further inside, a replica tower of the Tang-style stands in front of a green hill. Through the archway, I saw the Tang Street lined with colourful flags and souvenir shops selling things like Huishan clay figures, Yixing terracotta teapots, and Suzhou embroidery. A light fragrance like Longjing (Dragon Well) tea and yet also like Biluochun spring tea, drew me to Imperial Concubine Yang's Teahouse. I entered and found people cleaning cups, warming the tea sets, and making the tea in a tea-making ceremony in Tang Dynasty imperial style.



Delighted tourists picked up the cups, studied the colour of the tealeaves, smelled the fragrance, sipped slowly to enjoy the taste and praised the wonderful taste of the tea.

Returning to the street after tea, the hustle and bustle of activity have increased with folk art shows such as walking on stilts, boat rowing and donkey riding. The performances have attracted a large crowd of spectators. At the Huaping Pool, a performance called "Imperial Concubine Yang Bathing", featuring dancing and singing have spectators glued to their chairs and staring at the stage intently. On the opposite side of the street is an 18-metre-high water wheel next to Chenxiang Pavilion which people describe as the oldest "Great Tang air conditioner". It is said that it took more than twenty strong young men to move the two wooden wheels to bring water



from the pool to the top of the roof of the Chenxiang Pavilion in order to keep it cool for the emperor. Inside the tall and spacious pavilion is a huge bed covered with silk bedding and cushions. Several young actresses with low-cut blouses were taking off costumes for the Tang Dynasty court ladies show and were putting on princess costumes. Photographers were busy shooting with flash cameras.

Resounding music was heard with someone announcing: "The Emperor is opening the court session!" I looked toward the voice and saw a large crowd. Following others, I came to the Tang Palace

where a large singing and dancing performance had already begun. Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty robe was sitting on the throne in a yellow robe, on his face a happy and contented expression. Accompanied by melodious court music, palace girls with low-cut loose costumes gracefully danced onto the stage, swaying their waists, fluttering their long sleeves and dancing merrily. When the show was over, I visited the elegant and quiet imperial garden which gave me an entirely different feeling.

Experiencing the Warring Years of the Three Kingdoms

Leaving the Tang City, I headed to the Three Kingdoms City. Entering through the city gate, I found peach trees in full bloom, colouring the northern slopes of the road with pink, red and light purple. Inside the "Peach Garden", I heard music symbolic of the cementing of the friendship of the three generals who were heroes of the Shu Kingdom, one of the three kingdoms (the other two being the states of Wei and Wu). I passed through a gate built with firewood and saw the three pact bothers, namely Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei, in kneeling position, each holding a bowl of wine. The "Pact of Brotherhood", a scene in the classic novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, was being staged. A group of delighted South Korean tourists asked to have their photos taken with the actors. A tour guide told me that many Koreans start reading the Three Kingdoms at a very young age and are fascinated by the heroes in the novel. Suddenly, dust rose on the horse racing court on the opposite side to the sound of horse hooves. The stairs by the court were packed with spectators. Horse riders were performing. Clad in ancient-style armour and holding weapons, they demonstrated "Three Heroes Fighting Lü Bu". Over forty well-trained war horses, and deft riders from Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia showed us the rough and valiant spirit of ancient cavalymen. When the show was finished, several young tourists asked to have their photos taken on horseback and the actors complied jumping off and holding the reins to steady the animals for them.



On open ground by the barracks the film was shot portraying General Zhao Zilong warding off an immense enemy army at Changban Slope in order to rescue the son of his sovereign. It shows how Zhang Fei scared off the pursuing enemy with a thunderous roar on the Dangyang Bridge. The most exciting part of the stunt occurs at the heat of the fight when the bridge breaks and the river water flows back upstream. A few steps from here is the territory of the State of Wu. Along the way, are sites portray the terrace on which the Wu State general Zhou Yu issued battle orders, the Seven-star Alter, and the special battle formation. It is said during the shooting of the scene "Zhuge Liang Borrowing the East Wind", the actor stood on the bow of the boat as wind swept up the calm lake, adding a sense of mystery to the drama.

Enjoying the Story of Outlaws of the Marsh

Water Margin City is both the most recently built part and the



largest part in the Wuxi Film & TV Town. It is divided into the suburban, capitl, and Mount Liangshan sections. As soon as one stepped into the "capital", one is struck

Previous page: The Wuxi CCTV Film & TV Town boasts the Tang City, the Three Kingdoms City and the Water Margin City. They have been used for shooting more than 100 TV series.

1. Walking in the ancient-looking Chang'an City, the visitor seems to have gone back into history through a time tunnel.
2. Tourists have the opportunity of realising their wildest dreams such as witnessing the "Pact of Brotherhood" in the Peach Garden.
3. All the actors performing "Three Heroes Fighting Lü Bu" at the Cavalry Battlefield are robust young men from the northern region.
4. Look, here come the "108 Heroes of Liangshan".
5. The actress enacting Pan Jinlian, a seductive woman in a classic novel, is a popular star on Purple Rock Street.
6. A show of "Yang Zhi Selling His Sword" on Purple Rock Street draws a big crowd.

by the bright glistening gold glazed tiles of the imperial palace, the Grand Xiangguo Temple, Fanlou Tower, and the Residence of Gao Qiu. They are so impressive and magnificent that they seem real. Scenes in the TV drama series in the *Outlaws of the Marsh* as "Emperor Hui of the Song Presiding over the Court", "Lin Chong Braving into the White Tiger Hall" were all filmed here. The most lively place in the capital district, however, is the street built according to the famous classic traditional painting "Qingming Shanghetu" (Going to the Riverside at Spring Time), by the Song Dynasty painter Zhang Zeduan. Though only the section between the Rainbow Bridge and the Central Street in the painting was recreated here, it brings to life the way of life and folk customs of the Song Dynasty. The visitor, walking along the street, is entertained with a variety of shows, folk art, puppet plays, magician's performances and trained animal performances.

On a spacious performance grounds outside the capital district, shows by the heroes on Mount Liangshan were just starting. Wu Song, Lin Chong, Yang Zhi, Li Kui and Lu Zhishen took the stage one after another, demonstrating their superb skills with a variety of weapons. Next along the suburban district, Purple Rock Street is imbued with the typical lifestyles of the Song Dynasty. Places such as Elder Brother Wu Dalang's bun shop, Lady Wang's teahouse, Butcher Zheng's and Ximen's Drugstore lined the street and are familiar to readers of the novel. Suddenly, I met with the honest Elder Brother Wu, Pan Jinlian with seductive eyes, the lustful Ximen Qing, and the enraged Wu

Song, younger brother of Wu Dalang. Strangely, despite her bad reputation, the actress "Pan Jinlian" is popular because she is pretty and charming. Many

tourists chose to pay to have their photo taken with her. They even kept turning their heads back to steal more glimpses of her afterwards. Many stands in the street were selling dough figures and paper-cuts. These attracted tourists who were interested in traditional Chinese handicrafts.

In just ten years, the Wuxi Film & TV City has created replicas of the Han, Tang and Song dynasties, broadening our sight by presenting us stunning scenes that cannot be appreciated in the modern world.



1. Two young tourists dressed as emperors.
2. The Wuxi Film & TV City is located on a beautiful site by the graceful Taihu Lake.
3. Young women and girls always find it hard to resist the temptation of having their pictures taken, and dress in ancient costumes.
4. Dough figures made by veteran handicrafters on Purple Rock Street are cherished items of children.
5. Modern humour has added fun to a show of ancient costumes.



Tips for the Traveller

Performance Schedule 2002

The Tang City

Time	Program	Venue
08:30	Dragong dance (on holidays)	Main entrance
09:00	Drunken Poet Li Bai Composing a Poem	Tang Palace
10:30	Imperial Concubine Yang Bathing	Huaqing Pool
11:10	A Hero Rescuing a Beauty	Tang Street
14:00	Imperial Concubine Yang Bathing	Huaqing Pool
15:00	Drunken Poet Li Bai Composing a Poem	Tang Palace
All day	Imperial Concubine Yang Making Tea	Tang Teahouse

Opening hours: 07:30 — 18:00

Admission: 32 yuan

Dining: Tang Street

The Three Kingdoms City

Time	Program	Venue
09:00	Pact in the Peach Garden	Peach Garden
09:30	Ancient Chinese Music Concert	King Wu's Palace
10:00	Three Heroes Fighting Lü Bu	Horse Racing Court
10:30	Ancient Chinese Music Concert	King Wu's Palace
11:30	The Red Cliff Battle	Special Effects site
13:30	Liu Bei Getting Married	King Wu's Palace
14:00	Ancient Chinese Music Concert	King Wu's Palace
15:00	Three Heroes Fighting Lü Bu	Cavalry Battlefield
15:30	Pact in the Peach Garden	Peach Garden

Opening hours: 07:30 — 18:00

Admission: 30 yuan (or 60 yuan, including the entrance to the Water Margin City)

Dining: Sun Shangxiang Restaurant

The Water Margin City

Time	Program	Venue
09:00	Yang Zhi Selling His Sword	Purple Rock Street
10:00	Yan Qing Taking up the Challenge	Boxing Arena
11:00	Yang Zhi Selling His Sword	Purple Rock Street
14:00	Heroes of Liangshan	performance Square
15:00	Yan Qing Taking up the Challenge	Boxing Arena

Opening hours: 07:30 — 18:00

Admission: 35 yuan (or 60 yuan, including the entrance to the Three Kingdoms City)

Dining: Grand Xiangguo Temple (vegetarian)



Transportation: Hong Kong — Wuxi

The fastest way is to fly to Shanghai and take the train or bus to Wuxi, a ride of about 1.5 hour for 45 yuan.

* Flights (to Shanghai)

From	Flight	Flight time
Hong Kong	Daily	2 hours 10 minutes
Shenzhen	Daily	2 hours
Guangzhou	Daily	2 hours



* To Wuxi Film & TV City

Take bus No.820 from Wuxi Railway Station or take other tourist shopping tour buses directly to the Tang City, Three Kingdoms City and Water Margin City. Fare: 2 yuan. Taxi: 40 yuan.

Accommodation

For backpackers, the hostel owned by the Wuxi Film & TV City south of the gate of the Three Kingdoms City is a good place to stay and the rate is 80 yuan for a room. Your neighbour may be an actor you are familiar with. If you prefer more luxurious accommodation, consider staying in the Sheraton Hotel or Jinjiang Hotel on Zhongshan Road.

Sheraton Wuxi 443 Zhongshan Road North Tel: (510) 2757639

Jinjiang Hotel 218 Zhongshan Road North Tel: (510) 2751688

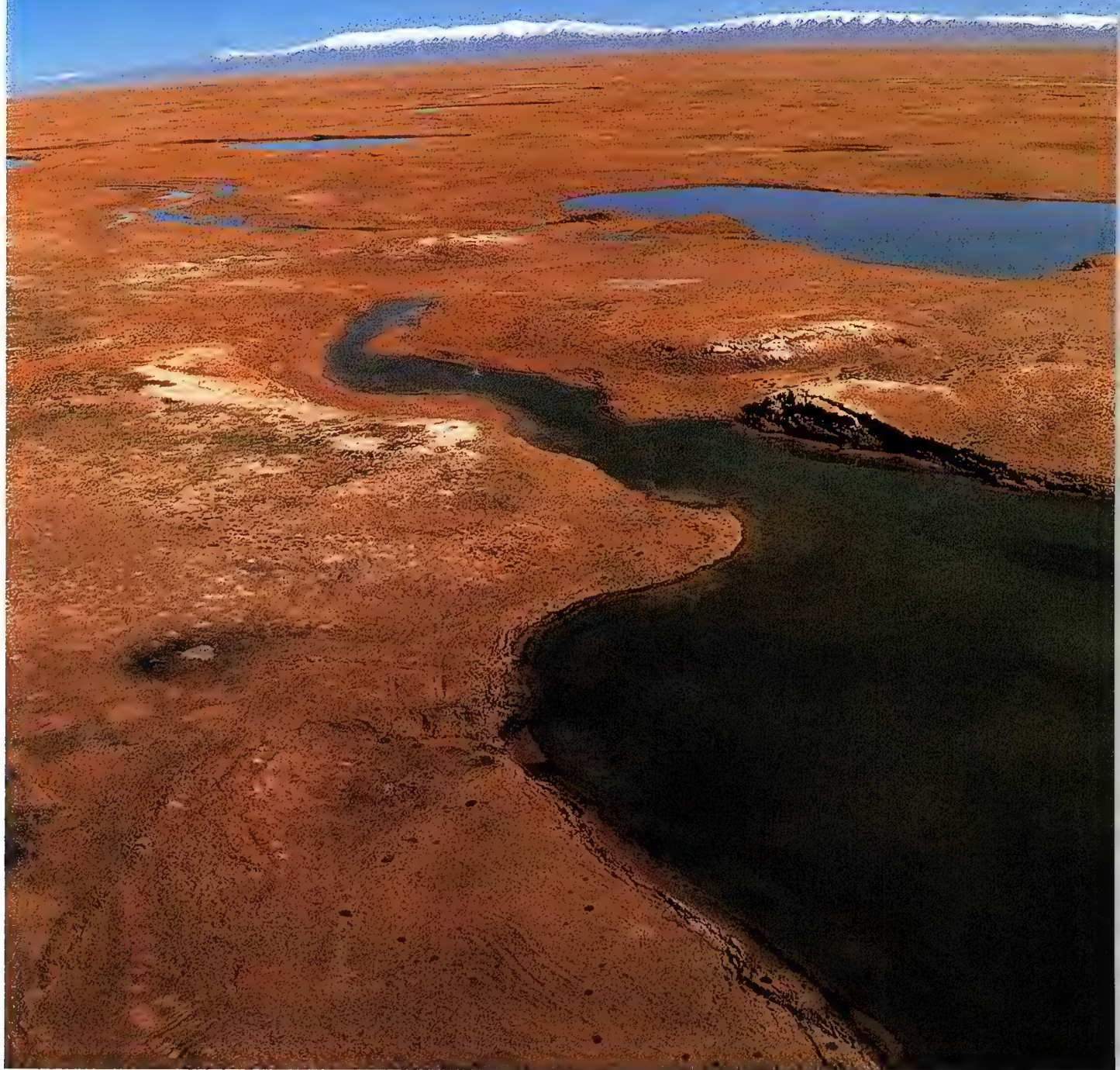


➤ **Tips:** You can tour the three cities in one day. Since the Tang City is the smallest, you are advised to visit it first. Then take a bus (one yuan for a bus ride and 10 yuan for a taxi) at the main entrance to the Water Margin City. This and the Three Kingdoms City are adjacent and a ticket for both sites will allow you to enter the Three Kingdoms

city from the north gate of the Water Margin City. Performances in all three places are fantastic but it takes more than one day to watch them all. You will have to make choices. Generally speaking, the large-scale shows are musts while smaller shows are optional. It depends on your time and taste. Since it is open seating, you are better off arriving well before the show starts. For bigger productions, get there 10 to 15 minutes before they start. This is especially important during public holidays when there are more visitors.

Other well-known scenic spots in Wuxi include the Lingshan Giant Buddha, Tortoise Head, Liyuan Garden, and the Second Spring Under Heaven.

NATURE





My Passions for the Yangtse River

Poems & article by Yang Xin
Edited by Dianna Lau

The Yangtse River is known as the mother river of China. Ever since the great flood of 1998, the protection of the ecological environment along the upper reaches of the river has become a national concern. But people, especially the young, know very little about the mysterious land at the river's source.

In 1999, I went on a tour to the source of the Yangtse. I asked some local children, "Do you know anything about the Yangtse River?" They shook their heads. What they know are the names of the rivers flowing past their hometown: the Maqu, Garqu, Damqu and Zoqu. They know that these rivers flow from the snow mountains and glaciers but they have no idea where they are flowing to, let alone that these rivers are tributaries of the Yangtse - the largest river in Asia.

Upon returning to the city on the lower reaches of the Yangtse, I asked the children there, "Do you know where the Yangtse comes from?" Again, these children shook their heads. The only thing they know is that the river called Yangtse comes from a far distant source.



About the Author

Yang Xin, a native of Chengdu, Sichuan, is now chairperson of the Greenriver Society.

1984: Began explorations and making a photographic record along the upper reaches of the Yangtze.

1986: Became a member of the scientific rafting exploration team along the Yangtze, serving both as a rafting member and photographer, travelling down the entire 6,300-km course of the Yangtze.

1991—1996: Organized explorations for the study and photography of the ecology at the source of the Yangtze for five

consecutive years, discovering and recording eco-environmental problems and advocating protection of the region.

1997—2000: Through raising funds by selling his writings, *The Soul of the Yangtze* and *The Source of the Yangtze*, he managed to set up the Suonandajie Nature Reserve Station. For 15 years, he has conducted many trips down the Yangtze to explore, photograph and develop protection projects for the river, initiating China's preservation of the Yangtze's source.

My Yearnings to See the Source of the Yangtze River

At the age of seven, I left Chengdu, a city on the Sichuan Plain, to settle down with my parents in what was then called Dukou City. It is now Panzhihua City on the Jinsha River deep in the embrace of wooded mountains. My parents took part in the construction of the frontier of China during my happy childhood surrounded by nature. At the time, living conditions were hard, and we lived in makeshift huts with bamboo mat walls and asphalt-felt roofs. We pasted old newspapers on the inside to ward off strong winds. One day I came home and discovered a coloured map on the wall. My mother had bought it for one yuan during a business trip to another region. It was the first time that I had ever seen such a large map. It had twisting colourful lines, circles of varying sizes and all

kinds of symbols that dazzled the eye. The map generated much conversation at home. My father's story of his five years of experience working in Tibet as a translator between the Chinese and Tibetans now had a good audience. Under his guidance, I discovered great joy and fun learning to read the map. I fell in love with the idea of my imaginary voyages on the map.

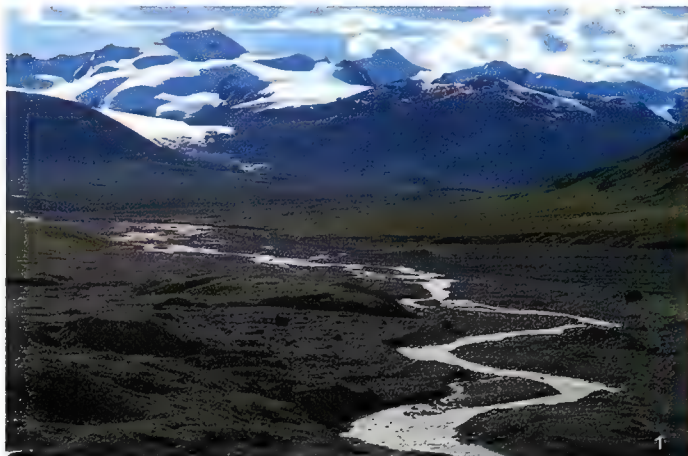
Along the blue line that represented the river flowing past our house, my imagination took me to the beginning of the line. I discovered to my surprise how narrowly the two lines representing the Yangtze and Yellow rivers were separated at the Bayan Har Mountain pass. The two blue lines nearly merged and then separated. Why was this so? Neither the flat surface map nor my father's explanations convinced me. Finally, my father, tired of me, said, "Go to the Bayan

Har Mountain and find out for yourself!" It was his very suggestion that aroused in me the desire to explore the source of the Yangtze River.

Extraordinary Experiences

During my middle school years, I fell in love with photography. I spent 120 yuan, my mother's savings for years, and bought a 135 Great Wall camera, becoming the first camera owner of my generation in the school. The mountains and rivers at my hometown have ever since become the objects of my unending picture taking. In the early 1980s, I spent two summer vacations visiting many sites of scenic and historical interest in the three southwestern provinces. I took an enormous number of pictures and wrote many articles. This effort became the beginning of my dream to become a professional traveller.

At the age of 20, I became an accountant in an electric generating plant at my home city. Though my job was to work with an abacus in the office, travel and photographing were essential interests in my life. Two years later, I realised my dream to have my pictures and travelogues published in newspapers. I began to travel to even more distant places taking better pictures. Making use of all the holidays I had, carrying a bag I myself had sewn, a camera and a canteen, I began my travels aided by a simple map. For the next two years, I went to Lijiang, the Tiger Leaping Gorge and Lugu Lake many times. I brought back many pictures and wrote many



travelogues that no travel magazine wanted to publish. My reward, however, was that I came into contact with unspoiled and down to earth cultures and I learned to appreciate the pristine natural scenery sooner than many others.

Seeing the Yangtse River Source for the First Time

When I was 23 years old, the courageous first descent of the Yangtse by raft by Mr. Yao Maoshu on the Yangtse aroused a strong response in the country. To continue his precedent, the Chengdu Academic Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences decided to set up an exploration team to raft and study the entire course of the Yangtse River. When news of this got out, thousands of people, men and women, applied to join. With a decade of training in lengthy excursions in the wild, I was enlisted into the team and assigned to be the photographer and primary member of the rafting team. In order to raft along the Yangtse ahead of a group of Americans and complete this great conquest by the end of the

20th century, my team members and myself pledged in writing that we would undertake the job even at the risk of our lives. With the hopes of the nation on our shoulders, we travelled to the origin of the Yangtse bound by a sense of duty.

On May 30, 1986, after slow travel over rugged terrain for several thousand kilometres, we arrived at the last town upstream on the Yangtse — Yanshiping. We had followed a convoy of yaks transporting salt, endured elevation sickness and laboured six days to set foot at the source of the Yangtse at the foot of the Gêladaindong Snow Mountain. Here I saw the first drops of



Previous page: The highest land on the earth, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau at more than 4,000 metres above sea level is known as the Roof of the World.

1. The Togton River, originating from the Jianggudiru Glacier, runs for 346 kilometres and provides the main source of the Yangtse.
2. During the breathtaking rafting on the Yangtse, team members experienced a narrow escape from death on the no-man's land section.
3. The marshland near Damqu which is the southern source of the Yangtse and the eastern slopes of the Tanggula Mountain constitute the highest marshland on earth.



melting water, snow and ice, my first herd of 100 Tibetan antelopes, pure blue sky, vast plains and hearty herdsman. Everything in view seemed full of mystery with traces of the stories my father had told me during my childhood years. By pure accident, the day we arrived was World Environment Day (June 5). Everything was destined to lead me on my path to the environmental protection of the Yangtse River source.

Dream and Reality

During the inspiring rafting experience, I went through trials and tribulations traversing a 400-km no-man's land enduring ruthless beatings by the turbulent shoals of the Jinsha River, and making the maddening choice of life or death at the Tiger Leaping Gorge. I narrowly escaped death on several occasions. Ten brave people gave their lives. The first rafting of the Yangtse was completed after a heavy toll.

This experience allowed me to get to know a group of friends with the same sentiment and passion as I came to have for the river. After the trip, we began to have many dreams of more trips rafting down the Yangtse.

Stark reality, however, compelled me to put aside my aspirations. I married and had a child to raise. In my role of husband and father there were unending household chores. Four years quickly passed. Then in 1991, I entrusted my son to the care of my just retired mother and began to unfold my vision again.

Finishing the Unfinished Dream

In 1991 and 1992, I twice organized and took part in exploration and photography trips along the Yalong River, a tributary of the Yangtse. These took me to the source of the Yalong and to the Bayan Har Mountain pass, solving my childhood mystery about the area. I discovered that at the bottom of the U-shaped mountain pass, the source for water sheds to the Yangtse and Yellow rivers was a small lake. The northern end gave rise to the Beimin River while the southern end fed into



the Yalong River. These two great rivers of China practically shook hands at this lake.

In 1993, I followed another exploration team to the Tanggula Mountain at the source of the Yangtse and conducted studies and photography along the Togton and Tongtian rivers. One exploration trip after another enriched my experience both in living in the wilderness and in society. Then an idea of combining explorative rafting and creating a special TV show struck me. I approached the commercial interests of the city of Shenzhen to organise a trip of TV shooting at the source of the Yangtse. My idea was to let viewers understand the river source through the angle of an explorer by showing them the magic and beauty of the region. I also hoped that such a TV production would spark commercial interest in supporting continued

explorations, studies and photography of the upper, middle, and lower reaches of the Yangtse and its many tributaries. This way there would be a way for both Chinese and foreigners to gain a better understanding of this great river.

Distressing Ecological Changes

In the summer of 1994, after a year of preparation in Shenzhen I succeeded in organising a nine-person TV crew for the "*Magic Yangtse River Source*" production. This marked my fifth trip to the river's source. My goal was to shoot a ten-episode TV program which would show in detail the natural scenery, customs, lifestyle, religion, and culture in the region.

During the shooting, I found the eco-environment of the river source had quickly deteriorated. The Jianggudiru Glacier was

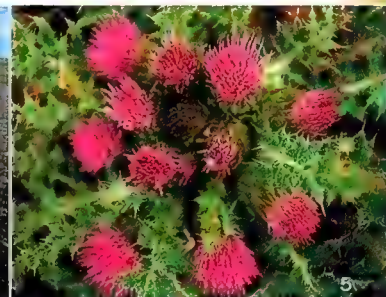
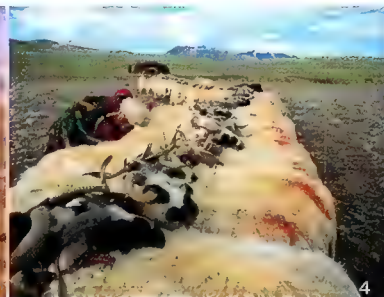
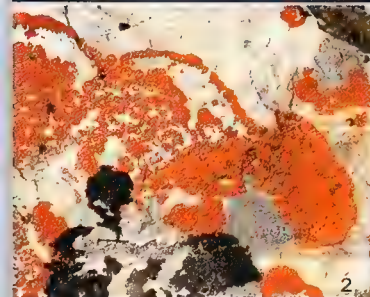


only record these distressing scenes through my camera lens to let more people in society become aware of the problems in this region.

Enlightenment from Suonandajie

Shortly after completing the shooting trip, I heard the story about Suonandajie from the people at Qumarleb County. In order to protect the Tibetan antelope of the Hol Xil region, Suonandajie, deputy secretary of the Party Committee of the county, was killed in a fight with 18 poachers. Dead, his body froze into a stiff sculpture at -40°C. Around him were found more than 1,000 hides of killed antelopes that he had managed to prevent the poachers from taking away. Hearing the story, I made a special trip to his home in Zhido and bowed three times in front of his picture, and offered a box of moon cakes to him. Looking at the worry in his eyes, I felt a weight on my shoulders. As an explorer, I had been proud of my experiences in travelling to the source of the Yangtse. As a photographer, I had been proud of the many fantastic photos I took of

fell when vendors reduced their prices. Everyday I discussed with people such topics as Suonandajie and the Tibetan antelope. When Spring Festival arrived, I did not dare unite with my wife and son, but instead worked on a plan seated at a lone table and chair in my room. With the help of materials from libraries and my own inspiration, I finished a five-year plan for "Protecting the Yangtse River Source and Loving Great Nature" in three months. It called for funding of several million yuan. For the next five years, I hoped to draw on the resources of many people and organize scientists and reporters to participate in four comprehensive study trips and help establish four nature reserve environmental protection stations. These were to be at the main source of the Yangtse at the Tanggula Mountain, the northern source at Hol Xil, the southern source at Damqu, and at the Tongtian River. With these base stations, I hoped to conduct observations of the environment, protect



retreating, the grassland had degenerated, and the numbers of herdsman and their herds reached the maximum limit that the plants growing at 5,500 metres above sea level could sustain. By the Jianggenqu River, the herds of Tibetan antelopes, each used to be formed by more than 100 of the animal, had now dwindled to a number of at most 11. By the Tongtian River, the grassy slopes I'd seen several years ago had turned into sand dunes dozens of metres high. At this rate of change, the future of the environment at the source of the Yangtse would be unthinkable. As an explorer and photographer, I felt helpless in the face of the ecological destruction. I could

the river source. What I had obtained from the river is a resource for me to show to society. Now, in front of the picture of the martyr, I pledged it was time for me to do something to protect the Yangtse River source.

My Five-Year Plan

I returned to Shenzhen at the end of 1994 and rented a room in the suburbs from a friend. I was sustained by a small amount of savings. I began to implement my dream to protect the eco-environment of the Yangtse River source. Everyday, I had merely ten yuan to spend on food and transportation and had to calculate my daily allowance even to take a bus ride. I bought vegetables after darkness

wildlife and conduct education on the natural ecology of the source of the Yangtse.

In early 1995, after reading my plan Mr. Zheng Jianping, general manager of

1. Deep in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Hol Xil region is very far from the sea and has the least rainfall along the entire Yangtse. It is rich in geothermal activities.
2. The rocks at 4,000 metres above sea level are covered with bright moss.
3. Hol Xil and the nearby Qiangtang and Arjin areas are seldom disrupted by people and are a paradise for wildlife such as Tibetan wild donkeys.
4. Till this day, herdsmen living at the origin of the Yangtse River live a primitive life style. Animal husbandry is their only livelihood.
5. This kind of thistle is a rare highland flower.



Shenzhen Century Culture Company, said to me, "Come to our company and we will set up grants in a Social Welfare Undertakings Department under your charge to execute your plan."

With his support, and after another six months of lobbying, I finally persuaded the Qinghai Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau, the National Environmental Protection Bureau and Shenzhen Environmental Protection Bureau to approve the establishment of the Preparation Committee for "Protecting the Yangtse River Source and Loving Great Nature".

In early 1996, with the assistance of Mr. Liang Congjie of Friends of Nature, we went to see the mayor of Shenzhen and obtained a grant of 300,000 yuan from the city government. Thus the project "Protecting the Yangtse River Source and Loving Great Nature" was officially kicked off in Shenzhen. In May that year, I took a comprehensive exploration team of scientists, reporters and environmental protection volunteers from Beijing, Guangdong and Qinghai to study the

eco-environment at the Yangtse River source. The study by scientists and coverage by reporters exposed in detail the severe problems of the environment of the region. We also decided on the exact location of the first environmental protection station.

Upon returning to Shenzhen, I hoped to raise several more tens of thousands of yuan to establish and operate the protection station, now that I had the support of the government and publicity by the media. Planning and reality could not be further apart. Six months went by and still there was far from enough funding for the station.

Raising Money for the Station

In early 1997, I received several calls from Zhabaduojie who was fighting against the poaching of Tibetan antelope on the Hol Xil snowland. He told me the fate of the antelope and the difficulties of the anti-poaching campaign. He urged me to establish the station soon. Zhabaduojie was a tough man who would only tell me his difficulties after gaining courage through liquor. But I was already in a terrible plight raising funds for the

station. It came to selling my blood and taking risks of doing commercial rafting. Then, a friend of mine in Shenzhen encouraged me to write a book about my experiences, which he would sell to raise money for the station, even if just a small wooden cabin could be built. Despite my literary limitations, I began writing.

In a room with no air-conditioning, plagued by mosquitoes and disrupted by construction noise, I wrote of my experiences exploring the source of the Yangtse and completed *The Soul of the Yangtze* in two months. It was published with the help of many friends.

While writing, I borrowed money from Friends of the Earth, an environmental protection group in Hong Kong, to order special materials for building the station. I mortgaged the income expected from the yet to be published book. I also enlisted volunteer unpaid technical help from friends and relatives to construct the station.

In early September 1997, volunteers for building the station set out from Sichuan, Shenzhen and Beijing for the eastern Hol

Xil, where they began construction. They took along tents, quilts, cooking utensils, flour, rice, and building materials. Those who could afford it went by airplane while the poorer ones took the train. With the help of the local government and Tibetans, they worked skillfully an average of 12 hours a day and completed a pre-fabricated house of 80 square metres in just seven days. They laboured against snow and elevation sickness. We named the station after the environmental protection hero Suonandajie.

On September 10, the five-star national flag was hoisted for the first time in the remote land of Hol Xil. Upon leaving the station for home, each volunteer received a gift of the Tibetan hada, a white silk scarf, around their neck. He Guoxiong, one of the volunteers, said, "I had never dreamed of doing something that had not been done before in China. I am happy that we gave rise to the first non-government nature eco-environment protection station." He spoke the mind of all the volunteers.

Erecting the Monument for the Protection of the Yangtse River Source

In 1998, with the help of environmental protection activists such as Wang Shi, the Yingtetai Company of Shenzhen, and Chengdu Pylon Factory, I organised the

second-phase construction of the Suonandajie Nature Protection Station. Using the most primitive tools, technical volunteers and college students from Sichuan, Beijing and Guangdong added another 60 square metres of housing, erected a 12-ton, 28-metre tall lookout tower and installed facilities such as an 800-watt wind generator, a solar energy heater, a bathroom and a kitchen. Now the Suonandajie Nature Protection Station is a beautiful structure. It is a landmark for the protection of the ecology of the river's source.

The very same year, the station became the base and forward post for the Zado County's anti-poaching team. It plays an extremely important role in protecting the Tibetan antelope.

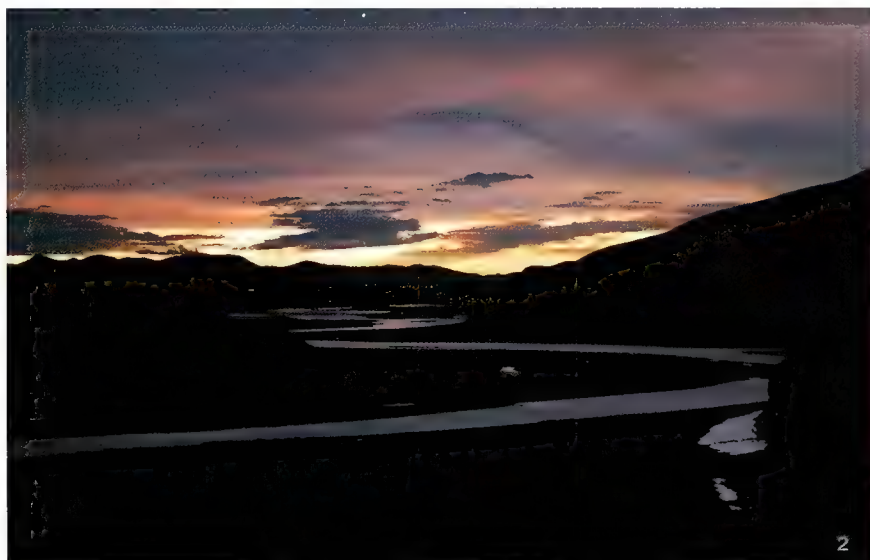
In 1999, I and several other environmental protection activists established a society to promote environmental protection in Sichuan. We named it Greenriver after the colour of the river. I was its first chairperson. I continued promoting Yangtse River source protection with this non-government organisation. The first thing we did was plan and propose creating a monument for the protection of the environment. We hoped to not only place a monument at the source of the river, but also make more people aware of the eco-environmental conditions and get the government at all levels to pay more

attention. The plan was immediately approved by the Sichuan Environmental Protection Bureau and supported by the National Environmental Protection Bureau, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the National Surveying and Mapping Bureau. President Jiang Zemin personally wrote the words for the monument. The monument was erected on World Environment Day.

Since then I have lead two teams to the source of the Yangtse at the Tanggula Mountain, Hol Xil and Damqu River, to study the eco-environment and conditions of the local herdsmen. I also organized volunteers to undertake the third-phase construction of the Suonandajie Nature Environment Station. We completed the floor of the houses, the construction of a storage room, built a road, and made repairs to the facilities.

A Showroom on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

At the Suonandajie Nature Protection Station is a hall displaying photos of the eco-environment and skull specimens of local wildlife. When visiting the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau station and listening to lectures by volunteers at the exhibition hall, tourists and researchers without exception are impressed not only by the blue sky, the culture and the religion of the region, but also the education they receive on environmental protection prior to going into Tibet. Last summer some ten thousands of tourists entered Tibet along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway. Volunteer workers at the Suonandajie Station received more than 5,000 visitors. Scientists and railway construction workers treat the station as an information exchange centre. When they need information on eco-environment protection of the region, their first source is the Suonandajie Station.



1. For more than a decade, poachers have swarmed into Hol Xil to kill wildlife, including killing thousands of rare Tibetan antelope yearly. It is now listed under first-class protection by the state.
2. The Togton and Damqu rivers merge into the Tongtian at a point 60 kilometres downstream from the Togton River Bridge. The 80-kilometre-long Tongtian River at night.

The Dream of Establishing the "First Ecological Demo-Town on the Yangtse"

Tuotuoheyan is a settlement at the uppermost reaches of the Yangtse. This is the first town, first school, first army barracks and first bridge on the Yangtse. Whatever is added is going to be the first of its kind on the Yangtse because of the location. On June 5, the World Environment Day, volunteers mobilized local government, army personnel, school children, hydraulic station and weather station workers, residents and herdsman, and put forward the proposal "Be the first to protect the Yangtse River source". They also helped the Tanggula Mountain School to establish its own environment protection organization, the "First Brigade of Guards of the Yangtse". On that day, volunteers and students crossed the Togton River and brought back tons of litter. Volunteers hope that through their guidance, the local people will eventually establish the "first ecological demo-town on the Yangtse". After all they are the experts in the area and we depend on them to protect the source of the river.

A Road of No Return

In the drive to develop western China, construction of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway began, making the Qinghai-Tibet highway busier than ever. It is used by exploration teams, construction workers, and visiting groups. Today, many modern vehicles use the highway. In contrast, the volunteers publicizing the need for environment protection and wildlife research seem poorly

equipped. There is a large gap between the funding for construction materials, equipment, and workers, and the volunteer workers.

Lack of funding is a key factor limiting efforts at the environmental protection station. In 2001, funding supporting the volunteers



came from revenues for selling the books, *The Soul of the Yangtze* and *The Source of the Yangtze*, and aid from a Canadian citizens group. If no additional funding is found by February, the Greenriver will have to use the cash prize of the Ford Automobile Environment Protection Award to sustain the volunteers in 2002, and the prize is only enough for one year.

Before I realised, ten years has slipped by since first setting foot at the headwater of the Yangtse and eight years have gone by since I joined the ranks for protecting the environment. The Yangtse has become my life and has in fact become all that I live for. When I photographed the lowering of the flag at the nature protection station, I told the

volunteers, "You've done your best." The ability of any individual is limited and we cannot expect to change the eco-environment conditions at the source of the Yangtse with one or two actions. We need to start with concrete no-nonsense steps and keep up the pressure to preserve the area.

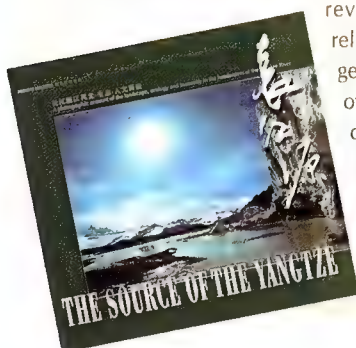


Looking into the Future

The Greenriver Society has started the Jinsha River Project, and plans to establish second protection station. Facilities at the station will include a botanical garden, as well as an environmental education, publicity, and training centre, and an eco-tourism route and demonstration facility. Through cooperation with environment protection organizations in and outside China, it will conduct training and give tourists demonstrations to promote awareness of environmental protection. It will provide a place for exchanges with other Chinese cities, regions and international organizations. Environmental protection along the Yangtse is a long road with no end. The Greenriver is rather limited in its abilities. We hope we can induce more people to join the ranks for protection. It is only after the awareness of environment protection by all of society has reached a certain level that there can be any real hope for the Yangtse. 

In 2000, we published an art album entitled *The Source of the Yangtze*, with help from many people. The album presents the mysterious land that constitutes the source of the Yangtse

revealing its scenery, customs, religion and culture. The younger generation can look at the pictures of the river and understand it. They can increase their awareness of protecting the ecology along the Yangtse from this book as well as from *The Soul of the Yangtze* and *The Story of the Yangtze*.



Website of the Greenriver:

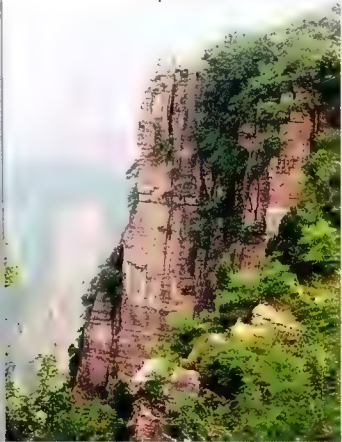
www.green-river.org

For donations to the Greenriver, please remit directly to the Sichuan Provincial Greenriver Society for the Promotion of Environment Protection, at the bank account of 261023867 with the China Construction Bank of Xinhong Road Branch, Chengdu.

1. Volunteer workers building the nature protection station, surmounting snow, wind, and elevation sickness.
2. Volunteers help mobilize local residents to take part in the campaign of "To be the first in the protection of the Yangtse" by picking up litter with them.

Southern Landscape on the Loess Plateau

Photos & article by Huo Ruizi (reader)



I used to regard Shanxi Province on the Loess Plateau as China's history museum lacking any beautiful scenery. To my surprise, deep in the Taihang Mountain, the landscape is as beautiful as that in Mount Huangshan and Zhangjiajie.

Xiyagou — Sister of Zhangjiajie

Xiyagou is shaped similarly to Zhangjiajie with the karst topography. Surrounded by a small village with a clear stream in front, it looks particularly tall and majestic. Sitting against the cliffs, the village is nearly cut off from the outside world since transportation is very difficult. Only recently, a highway was formally opened and is cut into and built in vertical cliffs.

The landscape of Xiyagou is very stunning with lush green

mountains, a beautiful river and a particularly impressive big valley that is, according to the guide, two-days-walking distance to Henan Province. There are peculiar peaks and cliffs on top and bottom of the valley, some similar to the natural cliff painting of nine horses on the Lijiang River, but much larger. Some are like huge murals and big screens. At first sight, Xiyagou valley seems to be a miniature of the Grand Canyon in America. But actually, it is more like a sister of Zhangjiajie in Hunan Province. Its rocky cliffs and stalagmites are even more elegant than those in Zhangjiajie.

The guide told me that weeks ago a Pakistanian working in China came here twice and he guided him on both trips. It is a pity that not many tourists come to enjoy the beauty here. Xiyagou is still like a pretty girl in her boudoir who isn't yet known to the outside world.

Wangmang Ridge — a Twin of the Yellow Mountain

Only eight kilometres from Xiyagou, Wangmang Ridge is in the southeastern end of Shanxi Province, with the highest altitude in the province at 1,760 metres above sea level. Being in the riftzone between the Taihang Mountain and the central plain areas, it is a proud work of nature, a combination of perilous peaks, sheer ridges, crags, precipices, impregnable passes, peculiar rocks, lush forests and exotic flowers.

I went there in summer when the mountains were decorated with all kinds of colourful white, yellow, blue, and purple flowers. The mountain peaks and ranges near and far seemed magical and inspiring. Scenic spots abound in the area, which can be entered through four gates to the east, west, south and north. There are gentle and easy-to-

-hike mountain paths connecting all the gates. Among the well-known scenic spots are Sanhua (Blossoms-scattering) Tower, Guanri (Sunrise-watching) Tower, Jiemei (Sisters') Peaks and Fuqin (Music-playing) Stand. There, mountains are in thousands of postures.



The clouds spoiled a lot of my fun by hiding the mountain tops with their heavy vapours. Wreathed in cloud and mist, the mountains were partially hidden and visible. This was no less graceful and elegant than what I saw in Huangshan (Yellow Mountain).

At dusk, the sun suddenly came out and illuminated all the distant peaks and hills, making them into fairy tale castles. Then torrents of rain came again in the evening, typical unpredictable mountain weather.

The rain didn't stop early next morning, so our plan to watch the sunrise fizzled. We were told that sunrise and sea clouds are the two super attractions of Wangmang Ridge. It is magnificent to look from the Sunrise-watching Tower in good weather and have a broad view of the vast plains in northeast China. It's such a pity that I was unable to see it in my first trip. I hope I won't miss it next time.



Translated by L. Yu

Transport:

- Take a scheduled bus to Lingchuan from Taiyuan which departs everyday at 6 a.m. from the Hubin Hall in Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province.
- Take the train or coach from Taiyuan to Changzhi, then change to a scheduled bus to Lingchuan. It runs many times a day. It takes over an hour to cover the 60 km from Changzhi to Lingchuan.
- Take the train from Xi'an, Luoyang or Zhengzhou to Jincheng, then take the scheduled bus to Lingchuan which runs many times a day. It takes over an hour to cover the 60 km from Changzhi to Lingchuan.
- It is about 45 km from Lingchuan to Wangmang Ridge, and about eight kilometres from Wangmang Ridge to Xiyagou. The two places can be visited in one trip and one can return the same day by renting a car.

Accommodation: There are several hotels at Wangmang Ridge and Xiyagou. They are inexpensive with rather basic facilities and no private bathroom.



A high-angle, wide shot of a massive crowd of people, likely Tibetan, gathered for a religious ceremony. The crowd is densely packed, filling the entire frame from the foreground to the background. Many individuals are wearing traditional or semi-traditional clothing, including hats, scarves, and colorful jackets. A significant portion of the crowd is actively throwing white powder or small white objects into the air, creating a thick, misty atmosphere that partially obscures the people in the background. The overall scene conveys a sense of a large-scale, communal religious event.

CUSTOMS

Pure Land on Western Sichuan Plateau
**Grand Buddhist Ceremony of
Sexu Temple in Sêrxü**

Photos & article by Lin Jinghua





Right after receiving the invitation from Chibarinboqê, the Living Buddha of the Sexu Temple, we began to prepare for the "Grand Buddhist Praying on the Snowfield" to be held in April at his temple.

Frustrations on the Road

The Sexu Temple is in Sêrxü County in the Garzê Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, in northwestern Sichuan bordering Qinghai Province. Thirty kilometres north of Shiqu County Town, it is 139 kilometres from Qinghai's Yushu Prefecture and three days drive from Chengdu via Kangding and Garzê to the temple. Travelling southward from Xining via Madoi County to Xiewu in Yushu Prefecture, two to three days travel is necessary. We chose to go from Chengdu because around Mount Erlang the scenery is very enchanting, although the invitation said people would wait for to meet us in Xining.

The activities of the grand Buddhist ceremony were held from April 18 to 24. The six of us set out in the early morning of the 15th with a car we rented in Chengdu. Just as the road to happiness is never smooth, when we reached the foot of Mount Erlang, we found ourselves in a bad traffic jam. Stopped alongside the imposing mountain, we changed our route to go via Shimian County an extra 200 kilometres. On the third day shortly after we left Luhuo County something went wrong with the electric wiring in the car. We asked a truck driver to tow our car to Garzê. After repairs were completed and we had eaten lunch, it was already 5 p.m. We decided to continue our journey through the night so that we wouldn't miss the opening ceremony. Braving a heavy snowstorm during the night, we drove from a fork at Manigange, climbed the Haizi Mountain, which is over 5,000 metres above sea level and entered Sêrxü County. At 3:30 a.m. we reached the county town. After shivering in a cold bed in a hostel for four hours, we set out again in early morning for Sexu Township 30 kilometres further. We were just in time for the opening ceremony.

A Buddhist Ceremony Held for Five Years

Covered by mountains and grassland, the Sêrxü County is quite large with a population of only 60,000 Tibetans and a few Han people who immigrated to the county town. Depending on animal husbandry for a livelihood, people there are humble, honest and

It was a grand gathering of over 100,000 people, all sitting straight worshipping intently with their eyes on the Grand Prayer Hall before them. They followed the Living Buddha's prayers. No one kept order, and there were no loud noises or disturbances. The only sounds were chanting of scriptures and music from the horns. People either put their palms together or kowtowed piously....

kind, believing in Buddhism. Leading lives as herders they are almost completely cut off from the outside world.

The Sexu Temple was built in 1760 and has the biggest group of joss houses in Garzê Prefecture. Over 100 temples are aligned east to west up against the mountains along the Yalong River, which zigzags through the grassland. Facing the distant snow-capped mountain ranges, the temples were decorated with sutra streamers and we heard the sounds of numerous temple horns and loud scripture chanting. It could be heard everywhere and seemed to awaken the sleeping golden ground and turn it green again.

Thirty-four-year-old Chibarinboqê is the Living Buddha of the temple. He is gentle and cultured, and has both great talent and broad vision. In 1995 after he received the certificate of a Living Buddha from



the Garzê Prefecture, he decided to hold the grand Buddhist ceremony in April for five consecutive years. The ceremony is for praying for the mighty power of Buddha, a prosperous country, a bumper harvest, and peace, harmony and abundance for all people.

The grand ceremony was held in the square before the Paradise Prayer Hall, which towers high in eastern Sexu Temple. For a week, about 170,000—180,000 Tibetans filled the large square and the steep slopes on both sides of the temple. They remained there from morning till dusk taking the Buddhist baptism from the Living Buddha and Buddhist masters. The majority of the Tibetans came from places other than Sérxü. They came from places like Yushu and Golog in Qinghai Province, or Nagqu and Qamdo in Tibet. In front of the Grand



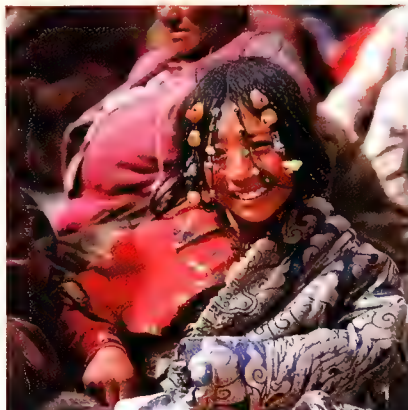
Previous page: Thousands of pilgrims put their palms together, praying, and waving the hadas.

1. The open-minded Living Buddha Chibarinboqê.

2. The seven-day praying ceremony held at the Sexu Temple is a grand event among the Tibetans.

3. Everyone is busy preparing for the grand Buddhist ceremony.





Hall of Puba Buddha in the lower mid Sexu Temple, about 1,200 Buddhist monks sat cross legged in orderly rows under temporarily canopies of colorful cloth. During the ceremony, the monks chanted along with with the Living Buddha the six-

word universal mantra (On Mani Padme Hum) five billion times, one billion chants of *Arapacana*, and five billion chants of the scripture of *Samantabhadra*.

Western Paradise in Tibetans' Hearts

At four or five o'clock in the morning while it was still dark, large groups of Tibetans began walking around the Sexu Temple up and down the mountain. Among them were young men with swords, richly bejeweled young women, children of five or six, and the elderly

over 80 or 90 years of age. They spun their prayer wheels and chanted "On Mani Padme Hum" as they walked continuously up and down the mountain. In the dim light, the stream of people seemed like a giant dragon moving closely around the Sexu Temple. It kept up all day till the curtain of night fell upon it had to stop for a reluctant rest.

At the first glow of dawn as rosy clouds appeared in the sky, smoke could be seen curling upwards from the thousands of white tents crowded on the grassland. They looked like stars in the background by the Yalong River. The smoke curls were backlit and appeared to be bright silvery beams of light. In this instant heaven and earth seemed to be immersed in an illusory void. Smoke from joss sticks was dimly discernible over the colorfully decorated archway built for the occasion on the opposite side east of the Paradise Prayer Hall. Streams of people in their circumambulation could vaguely be seen. They passed by the archway, which looked like a gate through which all these pious Tibetans could go to the Heaven, ("Sukhavati" in Sanskrit).

When the grand service started in the morning, thousands of Tibetans sat around the Grand Prayer Hall, which was surrounded by thousands of hadas (scarves), thousands of golden prayer wheels and thousands of suntanned faces. The colorful grand Paradise Prayer Hall

seemed to become a boat that sailing in a sea of people could release the souls from the sea of misery. I looked at these expecting eyes. How earnestly they longed to set sail in this boat and go to the pure land of paradise they knew in their hearts.

Shortly after 2 p.m. a sandstorm began. A great deal of sand stirred up by gales of wind swept across the people. It seemed a test from Heaven of people's willpower and piety, adding to the earlier trials of intense scorching sunlight. Indifferent to the harsh weather, the followers remained motionless in their upright sitting positions, attentively listening to the initiation. There seems to be an aureole on every black head in the misty yellow dust. It was a grand gathering of over 100,000 people, all sitting straight worshipping intently with their eyes on the Grand Prayer Hall before them. They followed the Living



Buddha's prayers. No one kept order, and there were no loud noises or disturbances. The only sounds were chanting of scriptures and music from the horns. People either clasped their hands or kowtowed piously.

I had been to Tibet six times to take pictures and have been almost everywhere in the highland, but I had never seen such a grand spectacle. Trying to remain calm in my excitement, I pressed the shutter with bated breath and took one picture another of the precious sight. Now I had forgotten my reaction to high altitudes, the intense sandstorm and cold, the painful chapping on my ten fingers, my weariness from sleepless night and little food. I only feared I might not have brought enough film.

Celestial Burial — a Chance of a Lifetime

Chibarinboqe is a very open-minded Living Buddha. He was the first to break the rule that Tibetan Buddhism is to preach only to Tibetans and went outside Tibet repeatedly to make friends with the Han people. Because of his influence, over 150 Han lay Buddhists came from Tianjin, Fuzhou and Taiwan to attend this Buddhist service and receive the special esoteric baptism from him.

The Living Buddha's open-mindedness was particularly apparent in the arrangements he made for the Han people to see the celestial burial on the 4th day. He set the time at 10 a.m. so it would be bright enough for us to take photos. This was a very rare chance of a lifetime indeed, and my first opportunity to have ample time to photograph the special Tibetan way of dealing with death in detail. During the entire three-hour process of celestial burial, everyone held their breath. The only sound was the Buddhist masters chanting and the clattering sound of the shutters here and there around the burial field.

Watching a big human body disappear in an instance among dozens of vultures gave me a sense of relief and I felt relaxed, but this was followed by reflections on life which are difficult to describe. The



seven films I shot made me proud, and I wanted to commend myself on my achievement.

On our three-day drive back, we again had many troubles. On the last day, we came to a landslide on Mount Erlang, and our cars were blocked for 24 hours. Though we were hit by a heavy snowstorm that night, early next morning we were able to take photos of the snowy scenery on Mount Erlang. We should really thank God for this grace.

Sêrxü is an unforgettable, sacred place that seems secluded but is connected with the world.

1. Tibetan girls like to wear their hair in plaits and decorate with turquoise and coral stones.
2. Sexu Township in morning. The mist surrounding the Tibetan yurts has created an idyllic scene.
3. Sincere Tibetans.

Tips for the traveller

Suggested routes:

1. Go from Chengdu to Kangding, and take a shuttle bus from Kangding to Sêrxü.
2. Take a shuttle bus from Xining to Yushu, and rent a car or hitchhike on a truck from there to Sêrxü.

Accommodation: Hostels abound in Sêrxü County. The County Hotel was built in 1998, with standard bed rates from 15~20 yuan a day, and expensive room for 200 yuan a day. The Sexu Temple also has guest rooms, with new clean bedding from the second to higher floors. Artists and reporters are especially welcome and they normally have free room and board.

Clothing: A down jacket is necessary all year round, but not cotton padded trousers. Woolen or thick pyjamas trousers are enough.

Miscellaneous: Take some white Vaseline for skin protection.

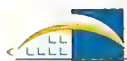


MUSEUM

Information by Leisure & Cultural Services Department Edited & photos (partly) by Ding Dong

Are you longing for the beautiful beaches and offshore islands over the weekend, but your mood to explore dampened by spring's constant drizzle? How about a cultural tour through Hong Kong's museums?

Hong Kong Museum of History



香港歷史博物館
HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Just a short distance from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong Museum of History was first established in 1975 and moved to the present site in 1998. The permanent exhibition "The Hong Kong Story" which cost six years to prepare is the most popular exhibit. A total of 3,700 historical relics are displayed in eight galleries.

Gallery 1: The Natural Environment

Visitors are led to a tunnel paved with simulated stone slabs. Rocks and fossils give visitors an idea of the changes in Hong Kong's topography since the Devonian Period 400 million years ago. At the end of the gallery hall, a micro primitive forest with trees towering as high as 18 metres introduce Hong Kong's flora and fauna over the past 6,000 years and their relationship with the natural environment.

Gallery 2: Prehistoric Hong Kong

Through precious prehistoric artifacts of stone, pottery and bronze, people's way of life over 6,000 years ago is depicted.

Gallery 3: The Dynasties—From the Han to the Qing

It shows the migration of the Han people from Central



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China to the area south of the Five Ridges in Guangdong and Guangxi, the opening of the Tang-dynasty Dayu Ridge, and the settlement of the Tang clan in the New Territories during the Song Dynasty (960—1279).

Gallery 4: Folk Culture in Hong Kong

A life-size replica of a fishing junk, a scene modelling the Bun Festival in Cheung Chau, traditional building models and detailed information have vigorously presented the customs of the fishing families in the old Hong Kong. Customs in daily living, of God-worshipping, wedding, and the New-Year lantern festival are also introduced.

Gallery 5: The Opium Wars and the Cession of Hong Kong

On the second floor, can be viewed the setting of the Humen Canon. Exhibits show information about the historical background of the Opium Wars (1942), the ceding of the Kowloon Peninsular and the loan of the New Territories to Britain.

Gallery 6: Birth and Early Growth of the City

An enlarged old photograph of Kowloon showing old street scenes, a Canton teahouse, a tailor's shop, a post office, etc, recreate the original environment. Visitors can imagine prewar Hong Kong and get an idea of life in the last century.

Gallery 7: The Japanese Occupation

Entering this gallery is a simulated air-raid shelter. Visitors can see many historical photos and watch videos and see military objects depicting the harsh life of Hong Kong's people under Japanese occupation during the Second World War.

Gallery 8: Modern Metropolis and the Return of China

The dramatic economic growth of Hong Kong in the post-war period is explained through housing, finance, trading, and industry. Significant historical events such as the signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the handover of Hong Kong's sovereignty to China are displayed.

A—HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY
B, 9—HONG KONG HERITAGE MUSEUM
C, 2—HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART

1. A coloured martial figure. (A)
- 3, 10. View of the Children Discovery Gallery. (B)
- 4, 12, 17. View of Gallery 3. (A)
- 5, 13. View of Gallery 6. (A)
6. A rock specimen in Gallery 1. (A)
7. The statue of Zhong Gui Fighting with the Five Ghosts, the Yongzheng-Qianlong period (1723-1795) of the Qing Dynasty. (C)
8. View of Gallery 8. (A)
11. Sedan chair of the Hakka people, 1905. (B)
14. Three-wheeled chair in the 1960s. (B)
15. View of Gallery 8. (A)
16. A modelled forest in Gallery 1. (A)





Hong Kong Heritage Museum



As the "youngest" museum in Hong Kong having just opened 16 months ago, the courtyard design of this five-story building is on a central axis that brings a balanced and symmetrical arrangement. There are six permanent galleries including the Orientation Theatre, Children's Discovery Gallery, Cantonese Opera Heritage Hall, New Territories Heritage Hall, Chao Shao-an Gallery and T.T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art.

The Orientation Theatre

A short introductory film, *Our Living Heritage*, introduces the interactive relationship of the museum and the protection of cultural heritages.

Children's Discovery Gallery

Exhibited in the gallery are once-popular toys in Hong Kong. It is amazing for both adults and children. Through interactive exhibits, the children can also obtain knowledge of Hong Kong's nature and history.

Cantonese Opera Heritage Hall

The model opera stage is a nice surprise for Cantonese opera lovers! Many relics of Cantonese opera help visitors understand its history and character. The gallery also showcases the costumes of famous

Travel Tips

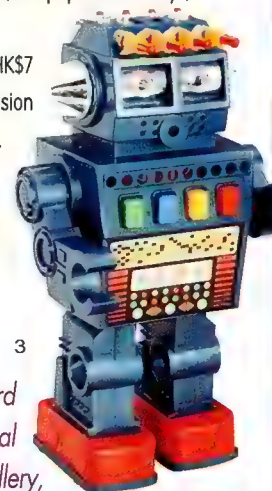
Add: 100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Opening hours: 10:00 — 18:00; 10:00 — 17:00 (at Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year's Eve); Closed on Tuesdays (except public holidays) and the first two days of Chinese New Year.

Admission fees: HK\$10; HK\$5 (concession); HK\$7 (for a group of or over 20 people). Free admission on Wednesdays (except for special exhibitions).

Tel: (852) 2724 9024

Website: <http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkmh/>



Cantonese opera figures in Hong Kong, such as Fung Wong Nui (Phoenix Lady), Lang Chi Pak and Chinese kung-fu master Kwan Dak Hing.

New Territories Heritage Hall

The gallery displays over 300 instruments and objects, which were used by the inhabitants in their daily life or during festivals. The 6,000-year of development of the New Territories are shown in eight theme exhibitions: the Natural Environment, prehistoric life, Trade and Coastal Defence, Fishermen's Lives, Life in a Village, British Rule, Great Transformation and New Challenges.

T.T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art

The exhibits mainly show ancient Chinese bronzes and ceramics and pottery from different dynasties. There is also an exhibition of Tibetan Buddha statues and paintings in the gallery, which offers a rare opportunity to see many examples of exceptional Chinese art.



Temporary Exhibitions

"Women Festival: Images of Females in Chinese History"

Venue: Thematic Gallery 5

Exhibition period: May 29 — August 28

"From Life to Mind"

Venue: Thematic Galleries 1 & 2

Exhibition period: June 5 — October 7





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Hong Kong Museum of Art



香港藝術博物館 MUSEUM OF ART 館

With a history of 40 years old and rebuilt in 1991 on the present site, the museum is making efforts to preserve the essence of Chinese cultures as well as promoting the arts in Hong Kong. There are three permanent galleries featuring more than 12,500 art pieces including Chinese calligraphy and painting, ancient relics, historical drawings and works of Hong Kong artists.

Dong Qichang & the Songjiang School of Painting

The gallery exhibits works of Dong Qichang, the person who single handedly helped develop the drawing industry in the Songjiang area (an area now belonged to Shanghai) in the late Ming Dynasty (1368 — 1644). It also shows other significant paintings of the period.

Metal, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth: Gems of Antiquities Collections in Hong Kong

Renovated and reopened last September, the Chinese Antiquities Gallery on the third floor showcases Chinese antiquities of highest quality. Over 520 exhibits are on display, including about 300 important objects on loan from Hong Kong private collections. Exhibits are grouped according to medium in four galleries: (1) Lacquer, Bamboo and Wood, (2) Ceramics, (3) Ivory and Rhino Horn, and (4) Bronzes.

Chinese Painting and Calligraphy

Held at the Chinese Fine Art Gallery on the fourth floor, the exhibition features the works by the "Three Masters" and their following, which are presented in the Lingnan School section. The diversified works of the modern Chinese painting section also demonstrate how contemporary artists with reformist thoughts revitalized the tradition of Chinese painting throughout the 20th century.

Origins of Chinese Civilisation—Cultural Relics from the Henan Province

From June 7 to September 8, visitors can appreciate 108 precious cultural relics selected from museums and cultural

Travel Tips

Add: 1 Man Lam Road, Sha Tin

Opening hours: 10:00 — 18:00; 10:00 — 19:00 (Sundays and public holidays); 10:00-17:00 (Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year's Eve); Closed on Tuesdays (except public holidays) and the first two days of Chinese New Year.

Admission fees: HK\$10; HK\$5 (concession); HK\$7 (for a group of or over 20 people). Free admission on Wednesdays.

Tel: 2180 8188

Website: <http://www.heritagemuseum.gov.com>



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institutes in Mid-China's Henan Province. Part of the activities celebrating the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the exhibition is organised into three parts: (1) The Formative Period-Neolithic Age; (2) The Consolidation Period-Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties; and (3) The Development Period-Han and Six dynasties.

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Travel Tips

Add: 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Opening hours: 10:00 — 18:00; 10:00 — 17:00 (at Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year's Eve); Closed on Thursdays (except public holidays) and the first two days of Chinese New Year.

Admission fees: HK\$10; HK\$5 (concession); HK\$7 (for a group of or over 20 people). Free admission on Wednesdays.

Tel: (852) 2721 0116 **Website:** <http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkma/>

1. Pamphlet promoting Canton opera troupes, published in 1959. (B)
2. Inside Gallery 3. (A)
3. A toy robot of the "Zeroids" series produced in the 1970s. (B)
4. Dressing table of Fung Wong Nui. (B)
5. View of the Children Discovery Gallery. (B)
6. View of New Territories Heritage Gallery. (B)
7. Peony fan, Qianlong Era (1736 — 1795) of the Qing Dynasty. (C)
8. Ancient bronze bell, Western Zhou Dynasty (11th century — 771 B.C.). (C)
9. Nine-dragon relief on a rhinoceros horn. (C)
10. Dragon, tiger, beasts and portrait patterns mirror, Eastern Han Dynasty (25 — 200). (C)



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10

A New Scenic Spot on the Great Wall: *Five Tigers' Gate*

Photos & article
by Yang Haitao



Fig. 1

The Great Wall in China has long been admired by people around the world, and Shanhai Pass, Badaling and Wangjing Tower on the Great Wall have become household names. Yet deep in the Yanshan Mountains there is a section with a water gate on the Great Wall that is little known but highly valued for its archeology—the Five Tigers' Gate.

Fig. 1. The Five Tigers' Gate on the Great Wall is located on the border between Chengde City in Hebei Province and the Miyun County

in Beijing. A great number of bricks have been found at this section on which are inscribed the words "made by Shitang Route in the 5th year of the Wanli reign period" of the Ming Dynasty 429 years ago.

Fig. 2. Judging from the inscriptions this part of the Great Wall it was built "in the 5th year of the Wanli reign period" of the Ming Dynasty in 1578. The long Great Wall must cross a ravine here. To guard against flood, the wall was fitted with a pair of water gates.

Fig. 3. It is said that this section was very difficult to build, and it collapsed repeatedly during construction. There were two superstitious sayings: 1) A wild boar spirit every night pushed down the wall built during the day with its snout. 2) A black dragon uttered monstrous noise because the construction of the water gates disturbed the torrent where it lived and hindered its activities. To subdue the two monsters, the stonemasons carved on the four sides of the gate lintels four lifelike tiger heads.

Fig. 4. In addition to the four tiger heads, there is a two-metre long crouching tiger carved on a large dark stone outside the gate facing the water. After 429 years of rain and flood erosion, it still looks very fierce and imposing with its wide open eyes and texturing clearly showing on its body. As there are altogether five tigers the place must

have been named after them.

Fig. 5.

Hundreds of years ago there was a luxuriant overgrowth of forest with abundant of water flowing down steadily from the

mountain tops. Also, the ground under the foundation kept sinking undermined by the river, so it was hard to make the wall stand firm. The clever stonemasons then laid huge pieces of stones on the waterway and joined them tightly using iron cramps making the construction firm and stable.

Fig. 6. On the pair of water gates there are two sluices. When floods come the sluices are raised to let the flood pass. When the water subsides, the sluices are shut and the gate closed to keep away enemies. This is really an engineering feat and an excellent design.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

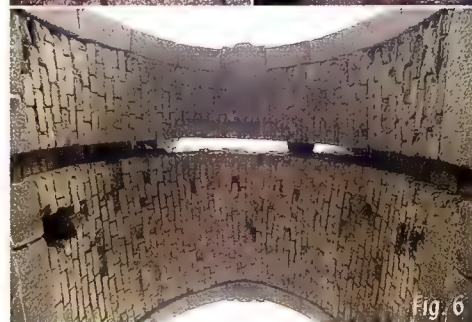


Fig. 6

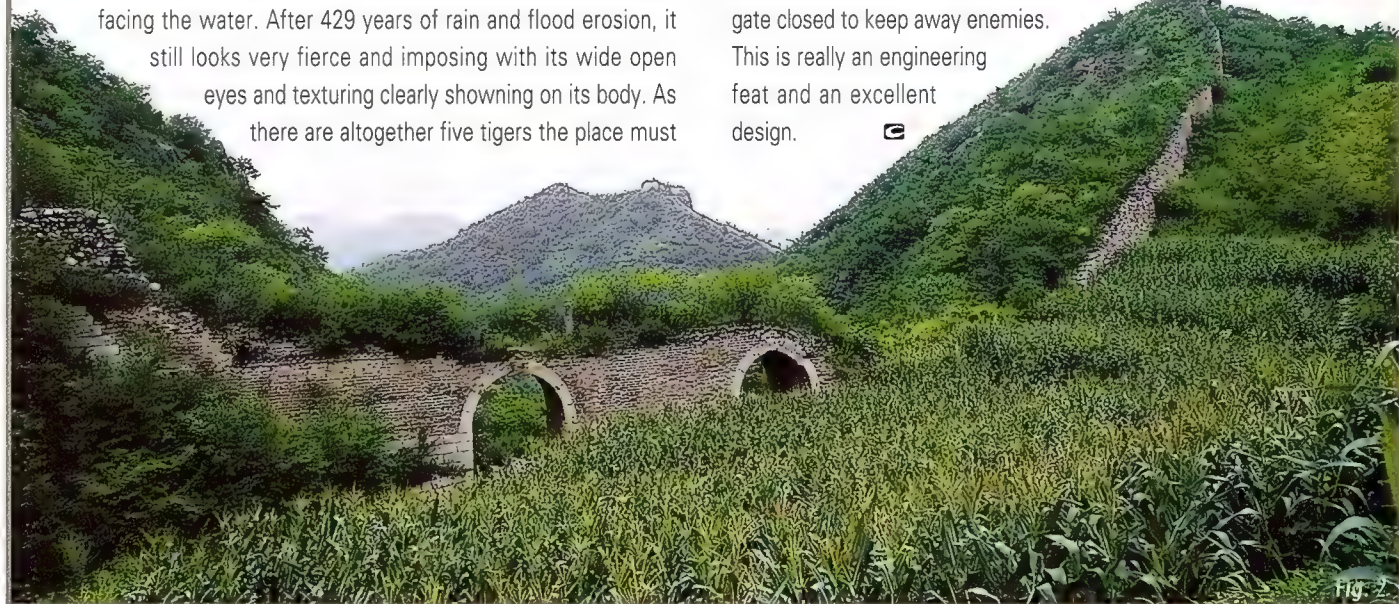


Fig. 2

The Wedding Rites of the Tanka People

Photos & article by Zheng Weineng

The Tankas, or boat-people, of Beihai in Guangxi emigrated here from other provinces during the Kangxi and Qianlong periods of the Qing Dynasty. Most make the sea their home, living in simple fishing boats. Naturally, their weddings also take place on the sea.

Preparations Before the Wedding

Three days before the wedding, the families of both the groom and bride pitch a tent and hoist the "Hongpi" (a red scarf) on their boats to show others that a wedding will soon take place there. During these three days the bride sings "weeping songs" to express her gratitude to her parents, friends and relatives.

The day before the wedding, the groom sends someone to row a light boat to carry wedding gifts to the bride's family. The bride's family keep some of each and return the rest to the groom.

A Ceremony in Two Steps

The first part of the wedding takes place at two o'clock in the morning. The groom's side finds a light boat and a rower to take the "Big Uncle" who presides over the entire wedding ceremony, the matchmaker, the groom, and a few others to form an auspicious odd numbered party, to the bride's boat. They light more firecrackers as they approach the bride's boat, announcing their arrival. When the bride's side hear the firecrackers, they come to the stern of their boat and light more in response. Upon arrival, the matchmaker boards the bride's boat first, and then "Big Uncle" leads the groom on board.

When everyone is aboard, at the behest of "Big Uncle", the groom serves tea for the bride's family. If the bride has brothers and sisters, the groom gives each of them a red packet containing some money. About an hour later, after "Big Uncle" asks to escort the bride to the groom's home, her friends and relatives raise all sorts of questions, making demands and trying every means to prevent the bride from being taken. At this moment "Big Uncle" steps forward bravely to speak in favour of the groom and launches into a battle of wits with the bride's friends and relatives. Only after the bride's side set off firecrackers again may the groom take her away.




The Newlyweds Separate After Daybreak

After the bride is welcomed to the groom's home, the two of them worship Heaven and Earth and kowtow towards the four directions on the boat

to beg for safety and a happy married life. When the ceremony ends, the groom plays cards or mahjong with friends or relatives, while the bride begins to fulfil her duty as a wife, looking after the guests until daybreak when she is sent back to her parents' home to rest.

The second part of the wedding ceremony lasts from one to three o'clock in the afternoon. The groom's side ties a few light boats together with a rope forming a long row to welcome the bride. The contingent then set off for her parents' boat amidst more firecrackers, and the bride's side answers in kind. Once the groom is aboard the bride's boat, he waits there until she is ready. She then follows the groom to his boat, accompanied by yet another hail of firecrackers. At this time the bride's family and maids sprinkle water and scatter coloured ribbons onto the newlyweds and then grasp the rope of the groom's boat to prevent it from leaving. The oarsmen do all they can to get the boat free and leave. During the entire process, firecrackers are set off as an expression of best wishes.

At the wedding feast the couple go around to thank the guests, and serve tea and hand-washing water to all the elders of the groom's family. The elders, after saying a few words of congratulations, give the groom and bride presents such as gold and silver ornaments and red packets containing money, bringing the festive ceremony to a close. 

1. On the second wedding day, the bride follows the groom to disembark amidst firecrackers.

2. The oarsmen do all they can to free the "welcoming-the-bride" boat from her family.

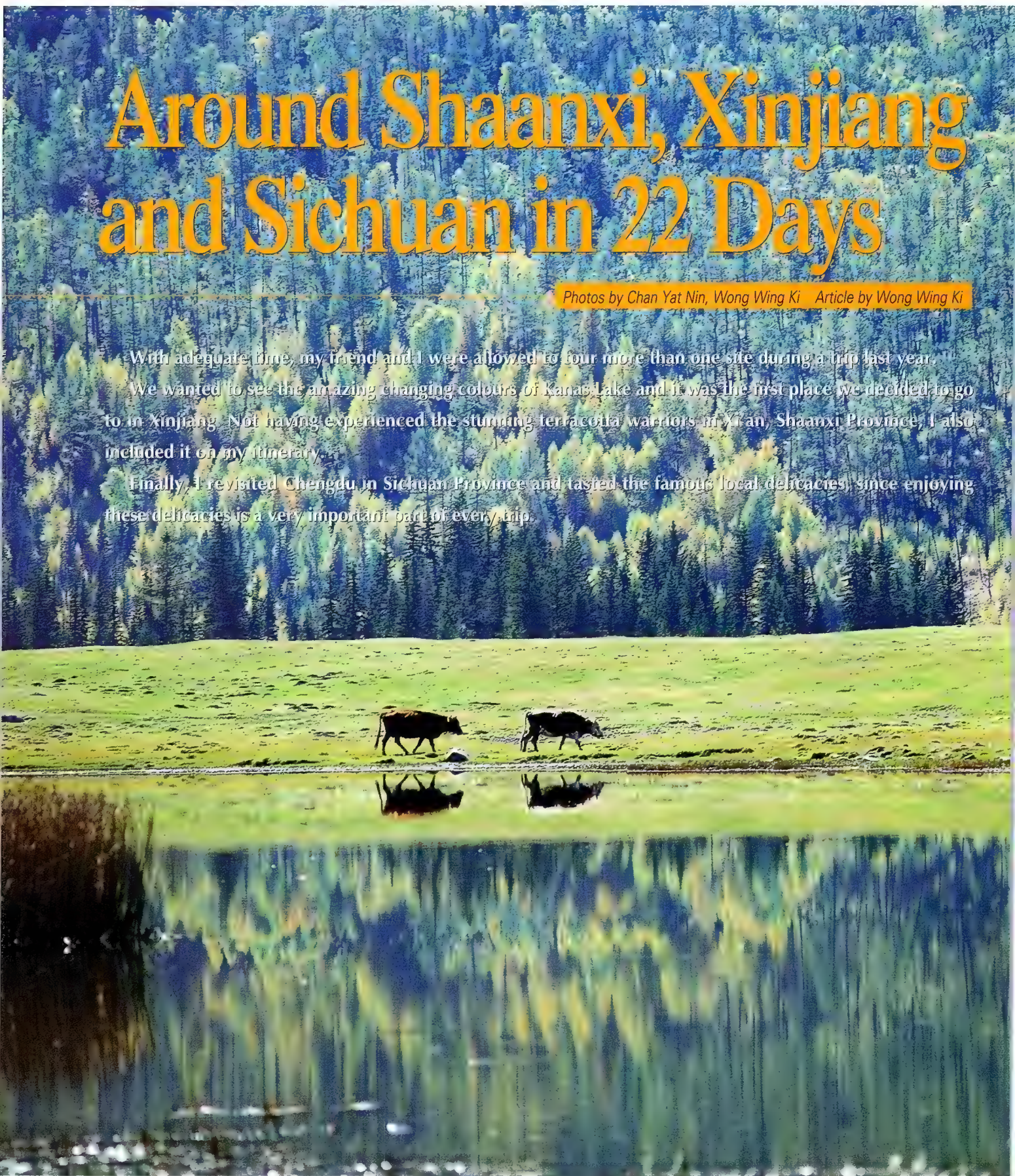
Around Shaanxi, Xinjiang and Sichuan in 22 Days

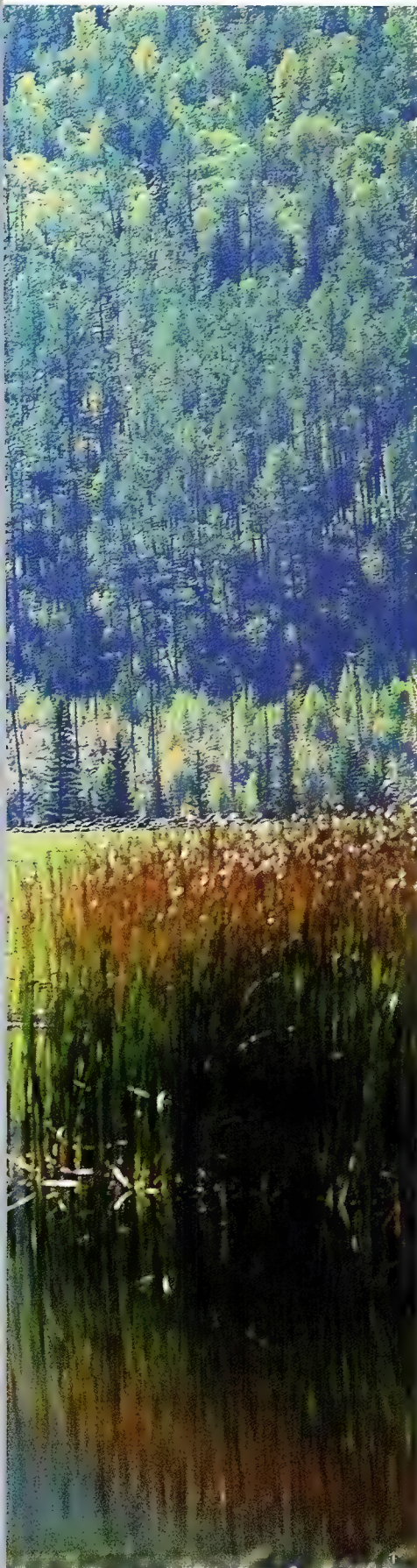
Photos by Chan Yat Nin, Wong Wing Ki Article by Wong Wing Ki

With adequate time, my friend and I were allowed to tour more than one site during a trip last year.

We wanted to see the amazing changing colours of Kanas Lake and it was the first place we decided to go to in Xinjiang. Not having experienced the stunning terracotta warriors in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, I also included it on my itinerary.

Finally, I revisited Chengdu in Sichuan Province and tasted the famous local delicacies, since enjoying these delicacies is a very important part of every trip.





Guangzhou — Xi'an

We finally reached the Xi'an Railway Station at 10 p.m. after a 30-hour train ride from Guangzhou. The area in front of the railway station was crowded with bamboo blankets and pillows. I thought these were the belongings of street sleepers. Not until a woman came towards us and asked if we would stay there for two yuan a person did we realize they were set out for tourists.

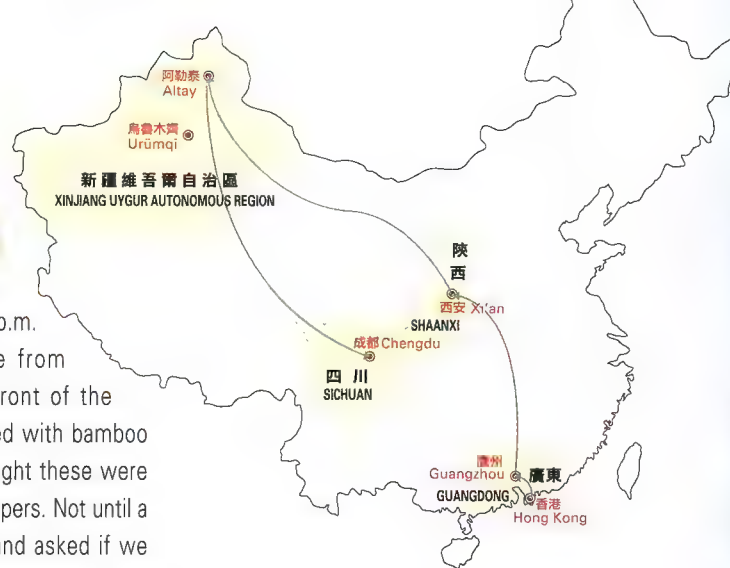
Feeling very excited, I took a car to visit the not-to-be-missed terracotta warriors in the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. Though it was more convenient than hiring a taxi, we were limited to visit six places. We spent almost the whole day in the mausoleum. Three pits have been excavated. Without adequate protection, the surface colours of the figurines have been fading and losing their original appearance due to oxidation. The government has already stopped digging out the other pits because of this.

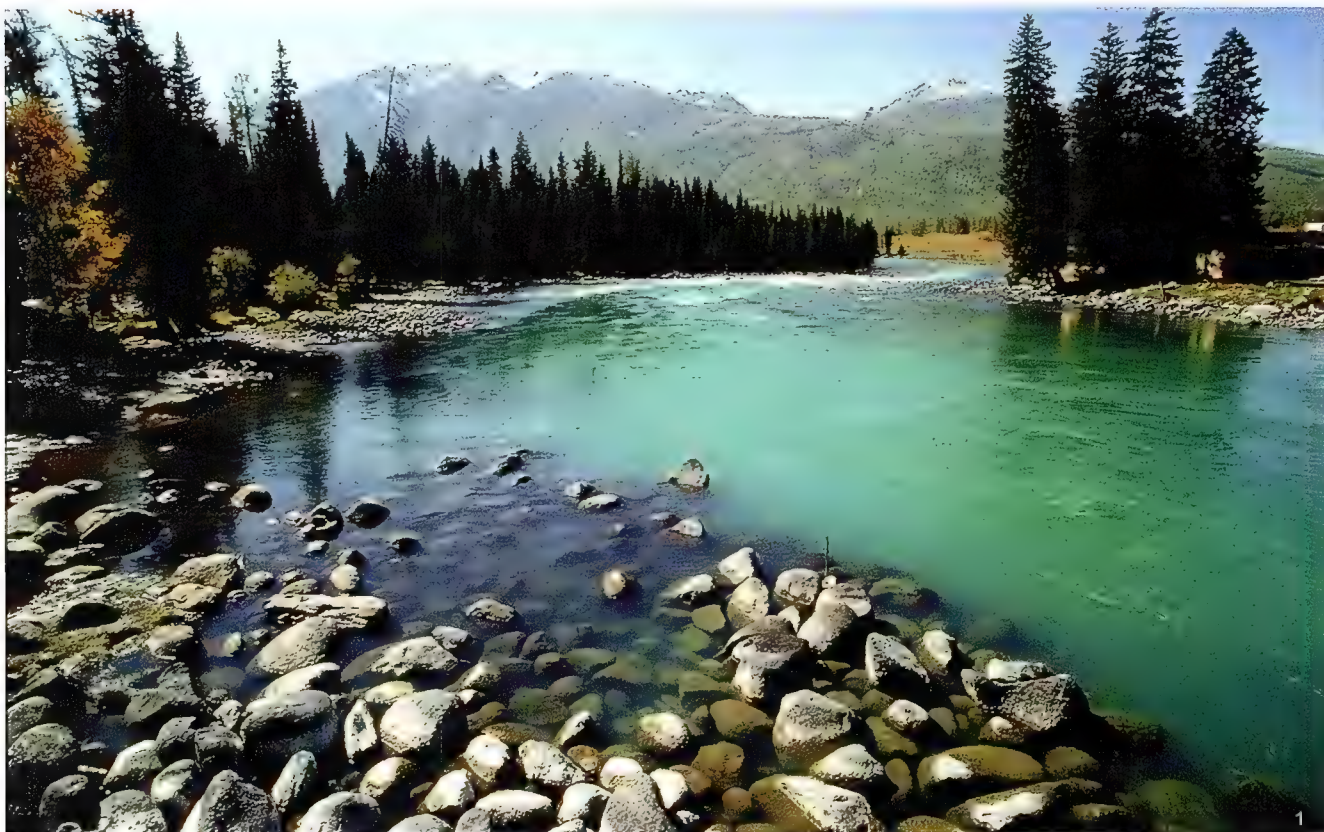
We read in *China Tourism* that the authentic meat dumplings banquet can be experienced in Xi'an. As soon as we arrived, we went to the famous old store "Defachang". The restaurant provides various kinds of meals. There were meals priced from 100 to 300 yuan per person. We

choose the meal costing 150 yuan per person. The cuisine included dumplings of 20 different shapes and fillings. After ordering another two cups of floral tea, the whole meal came to 313 yuan.

We discovered, however, that the dumplings sold on the streets are more delicious and cheaper! The name "Jia Family soup & meat dumplings" (賈家灌湯包子) have a nice flavour, have tender meat, and the broth inside the dumpling is not squeezed out through the thin skin even when picked up with a pair of chopsticks. The whole dumpling can be eaten in one bite.

1. Situated in northernmost Xinjiang on Mount Altay, the Kanas, a moraine lake, is ten times larger than the Heavenly Lake. (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Xinjiang is home to many kinds of melons, favourable fruits of people during summer. (by Wong Wing Ki)





Xi'an — Ürümqi

After another 42-hour train ride, our team arrived at Ürümqi. We bought a map then took a taxi to find lodging in the city centre. I asked the driver to head to Renmin Road. My partner, who has a great sense of direction, knew the driver was actually going in the opposite direction. When the price on the metre had gone up to 12 yuan, we found

ourselves in the opposite place from where we wanted to be. We asked the driver to stop the car at once. He scolded at us angrily.

The night market situated at Huanghe Road in Ürümqi did not open until 9 p.m. Stands on both sides of the street mainly sold typical Xinjiang snacks. The whole street was surrounded by bright bulbs, as if it were a flaming path. I was captivated by the

snacks, which included river snail, black millet congee, roasted lamb, hand-pressed rice, and different kinds of noodles made with beef and mutton.

Ürümqi — Kanas — Altay

We spent about 14 hours in a double-decked, soft-seat, long-distance bus. Though the view on both sides of the road was scenic we were given a chance to stop and take photos only when the driver pulled off to answer nature's call. On arriving, we took a jeep to Hemu and Kanas. Although hiring a car cost 300 yuan a day, we could stop and take photos at any time. Besides, the driver who could speak the Kazak language was our translator. Hemu is a small, beautiful village in which the hills are covered with green grassy meadows dotted with herds of cows and sheep. All the houses are built of timber. At about six o'clock, circles of white smoke could be seen floating from the chimneys, creating a lovely scene.

We rejoiced in the scenery of Kanas River along the way. The river water is used



forest. The former two are small forests. Lots of fish swam in the streams, which originate from the Kanas River. The driver took out gear to fish from the riverbank. In the forests were many timber houses and yurts set up for tourists.

Tips: I would like to recommend to readers a hotel, which is cheap and pleasant. This hotel provides 24-hour hot water and long distance phone service. But the cost to call Hong Kong is quite expensive: 55 yuan/ 3 minutes
Altay Prefecture Tourism Hotel
Standard twin-bed room: 100 yuan/ day

Urümqi — Chengdu

Since many students were hurrying back to school in early September, the railway tickets were sold out very early. So we had to go by mainland flights.

Revisiting Chengdu, my first destination was to visit an old man over 90 years of age — Mr. Li, who worked in the street gallery located beside the Jinjiang Hotel. Mr. Li earned a living drawing calligraphy paintings. I would buy his work every visit to Chengdu. Two years ago the street gallery was forced to close because the provincial government planned to construct a government building on the site. My heart was soothed when other experts in the same field told me that Mr. Li was healthy.

Two years ago, a restaurant called "Longchaoshou" (龍抄手 Dragon Frying Hand) provided a large variety of dishes. And the Wealthy Spareribs were the most delicious dish. However, there was variety of dishes provided this time and

each of us was required to order a set meal (60~80 yuan). These included a dish of stir-fried vegetables and a dish of fried meat. The snacks of Zhongs Meat Dumplings (鍾水餃) are still of high quality. It has not forced customers to order set meals. The most delicious meat dumplings are available in this establishment and they have a wonderful fragrance and flavour.

The Lais Dumplings (賴湯圓) has also preserved its style. The snacks can be purchased separately while the four-colour dumpling is the most famous. My company is especially fond of Lais dumplings. In the period when we stay in Chengdu, he has to eat at least one bowl of the dumplings. Since the shop only provides two flavours of dumplings everyday, I have also bought some ingredients for making the food and made it at home myself. Moreover, the Longan Bun (龍眼包子) found in Taisheng Road South is admittedly a delicacy, with thin skin and fresh meat. And six of them in a bamboo steamer just costs 4 yuan. The changes in Chengdu are many!

Tips: There is a food called Pugai (Covering) Noodles in Chengdu. The ingredients include beef, spareribs, spicy preserved vegetables and meat stripes. The chef cuts out part of a big dough and pull to make square-shaped pieces of noodle of about two inches on each side. The noodles are elastic and absorb well with the flavours of the spicy soup and meat ingredients

1. "Kanas" means "beautiful, rich and mysterious" in Mongolian language. Other than its primitive beauty, the Kanas Lake also provides clean water for the locals' daily lives and irrigation. (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Nationalities living on Mount Altay include the Kazaks, Mongolians, and Kirgizs. These people move two times to find new grassland every year. (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. On the way to the Kanas Lake, we passed the peaceful Hemu Village. (by Wong Wing Ki)
4. A stand selling "nangs", Xinjiang baked cakes in Erdaoqiao in Urümqi. "Nangs" can be made with meat, oil or sesame. (by Wong Wing Ki)
5. Renowned snacks in Chengdu: Longan Bun, Zhongs Meat Dumplings, Lais Dumplings, and Guos Dumplings. (by Huang Yanhong)

domestically by the locals and helps irrigate the fields. Wide and blue and emerald green, the river has formed two particular channels called Wolong (Chroching Dragon) Bay and Yueliang (Moon) Bay. We noticed, most of the trees on the hill were silver birch. The driver told us one could see red and golden birch between September 15 and 20 before leaf-fall.

It took about half an hour to go from Burqin to Altay. The city of Altay has few vehicles and residents, and has neat roads. Many family-run noodle shops stand along the roads. Among them, the stewed beef noodles of the Gansu Muslim Beef Noodles Restaurant located in 22 Jiefang Road most impressed me.

We hired a mini-cab to tour the Greater East Gully, Lesser East Gully and silver birch





A SPIRITUAL TOUR TO THE THOUSAND-BUDDHA CAVES IN JIAJIANG

Photos & article by Huang Yanhong

Jiajiang is a typical "pictographic county" in West China's Sichuan Province, in which "Jia" in Chinese means "being placed in the middle". The Qingyi River which divides the county into two parts is surrounded by mountains on both sides. The place has gained its name since the early Sui Dynasty (581—618). One hundred years after the county was set up, the making of Buddha's statues became popular and had endured a long period of time. The Thousand-Buddha Caves scenic area located on the

mountain cliffs on both sides of the Qingyi River is one of those places revealing the glory of Buddhist art on the perilous cliffs in Jiajiang.



Entrance of Ancient Jinghe River — a White Lie

The first place I visited was called Gujingkou (古经口, Entrance of the Ancient Jinghe River). In fact, long before the establishment of Jiajiang County, the name of Gujingkou had already been widely known.

In 300 B.C., Qin Emperor Huiwen set up the Shu Prefecture. Over 10,000 of people were forced to move from the Jinghe River basin in Shaanxi to the prefecture. They missed their homeland very much. Fortunately, the government officials thought of a wonderful way to soothe these people: They claimed that the prefecture was the "southern entrance of the Jinghe River in ancient times". A rock tablet was even set up to approve such saying. The locals really believed that and were willing to stay there afterwards. In the Ming Dynasty (1368—1644), a man called Zhang Ting carved the three characters "Gu Jing Kou" on the cliff, further spreading the lie. Though the carving can no longer be found today, I still admire the one who created this lie that eventually turned to be a record in the history.

People in Gujingkou are always busy leading cows, pulling wooden cars, or loading goods. Tourists are just a minority here. This has though maintained its original taste.

No-head Buddha — A Regret Caused by Good Intention

Most Buddhist statues in Jiajiang were made in the prime time of the Tang Dynasty (618 — 907). There had been a saying "the making of Buddhist statues in Leshan requires large size, while that of Jiajiang requires large number". According to the introduction of Mr. Zhou from the local relic management centre, there were 271 Moya niches and 4,000-plus Buddhist statues in the 1950s in Jiajiang. However, during the Cultural Revolution (1966 — 1976), one third of these statues were destroyed. Today, only about 162 caves and 2,400 statues are left.

While looking at these statues, what I felt most strange was many have lost their heads.

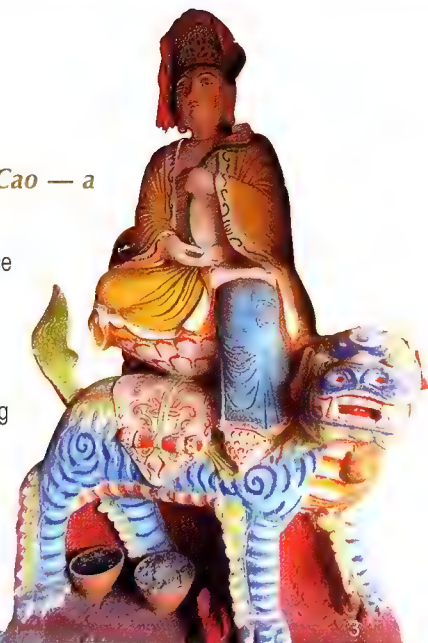
Mr. Zhou then led me to the Wanyong (Ten-thousand Praises) Cave. Among many carvings left by celebrated figures, I found a particular one. And it explained the doubt of the headless Buddha's statues. The carving was about the "Record of the Refurbishment of the Thousand-Buddha Caves" with an introduction written by the Qing emperor Kangxi. During the renovation of the caves at that time, a county official surnamed Wang who highly respected the Buddha, cut down the heads of many Buddha's statues which were seriously weathered, and replaced with new pottery heads. A tablet had also been set up to record his merit. However, the newly-added heads fell down one by one later, with only a square hole left on every statue's neck.

I guess even Mr. Wang did not expect his good intention would cause such a regret.

Emperor's Maternal Uncle Cao — a Late Representative

Going ahead, we passed a place called Zhenyigang. Zhou tidied up his clothes, saying this was a respect to the ancestors as well as a must-action before worshipping the Buddha.

We reached a place called Yueliangyan (月浪庵, Waves-



under-the-Moon Rock). "Yue" means "the moon" and "liang" means "the waves". The word "yan" is a pictograph, meaning a house-shaped rock. In the 1930s, Zhang Daqian, a

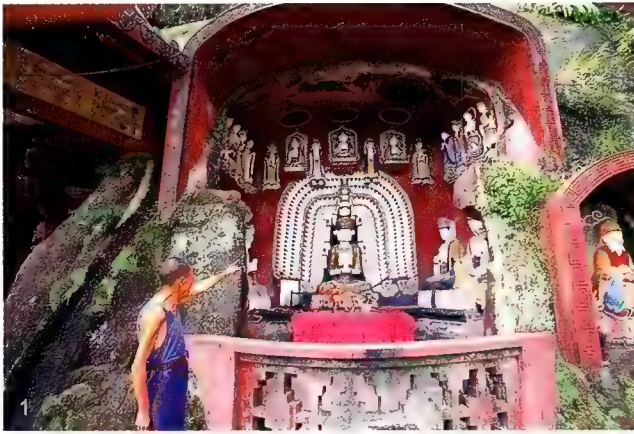
late well-known Chinese painter, had stayed one night here in the hope to hear the waves at night under the moon.

Mr. Zhou got very excited when talking about the Buddhist statues. There were about eight caves called "Jingtubiankan". The No. 99 "Jingtubiankan" contains more than 270 carved figures, all distracted from Buddhist story about the Pure Land. Another famous spot is an eight-feet-high statue of the Mile ("Maitreya" in Sanskrit) Sitting Buddha, which owns an outlook similar to that of the World Heritage Site Leshan Giant Buddha. The only difference is their right

hands face to different directions. Since it was built 80 years earlier than the Leshan Giant Buddha, experts believe



1. The No-head Buddhas own their own beautiful legend.
2. Old women form a Buddha-worshipping team to visit the Thousand-Buddha Caves. (by Zhang Jinneng)
3. Most statues in the Golden Statue Temple were created after the Ming Dynasty on the stone walls.
4. A tablet recording the history nearby the Commanding Terrace.
5. The Golden Statue Temple is located in a quiet and greenish wood.



that it is the model of the Leshan's.

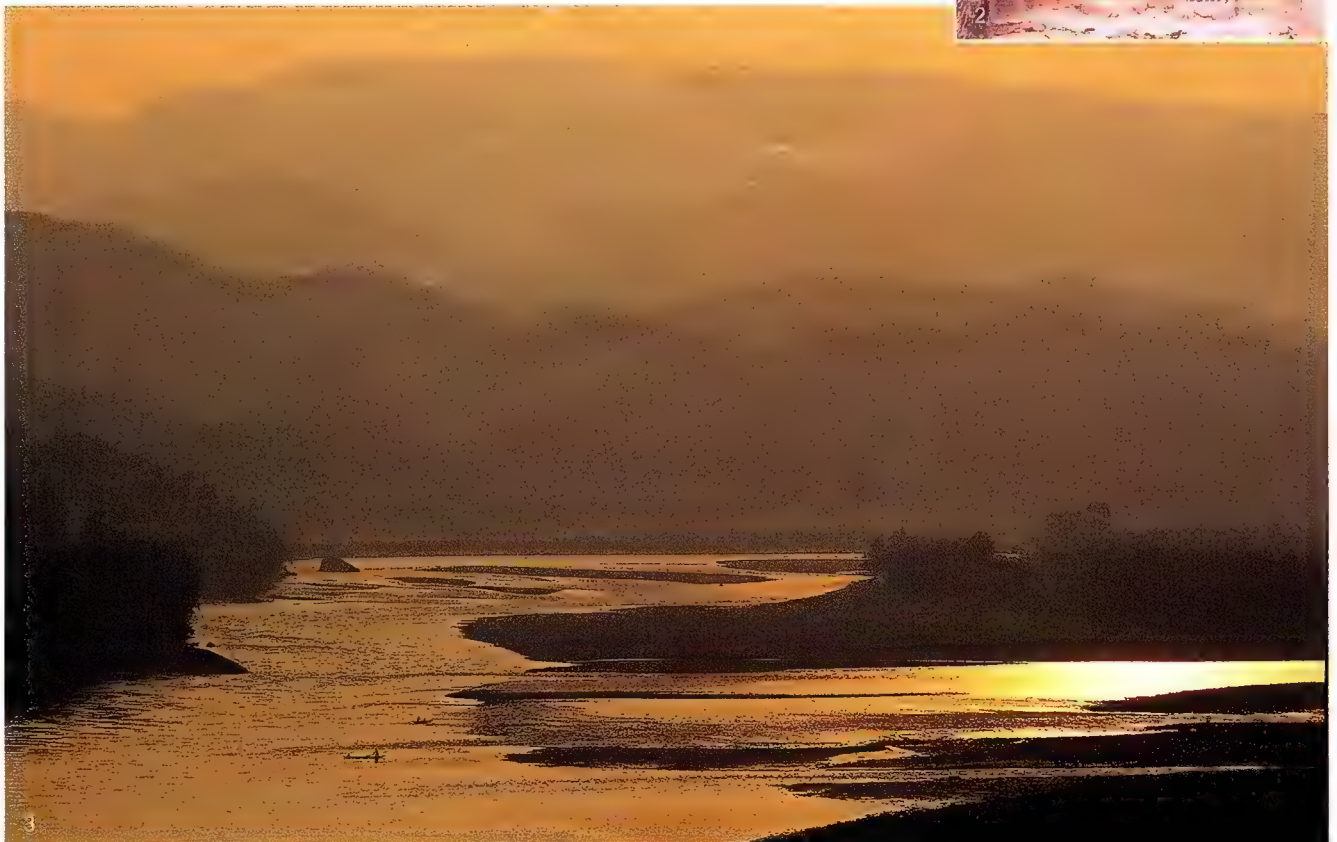
The style and design of most Buddha's statues made from the Tang to Qing dynasties are similar. Yet, there is an exception. No sooner, I was told it was the statue of "Cao Guojiu", or Emperor's Maternal Uncle Cao. He was the younger brother of the Empress dowager in the Song Dynasty (960 — 1279), and was regarded as one of the Eight Immortals in Taoism. After the statue of "Goddess of Mercy Seeing Off a Young Boy" (Guanyin Songzi) was stolen by a French missionary in the 1930s, the statue of Cao Guojiu was "added" in the space in purpose by the locals. He therefore became a Taoist representative coming late.

Golden Statue Temple — a Sorrowful Story

The Golden Statue Temple locates farther from the above places. Since it is quietly surrounded by rural fields and farmhouses, few tourists have heard about it.

The Buddhist statues carved on the stone wall in the temple was a work in the Ming Dynasty. They were all exquisitely made, with detailed sculpturing and bright outlook. Among them, the Thousand-hand & Thousand-Eye Goddess of Mercy is the nicest piece. The temple was renovated in the 1980s.

There is also a touching legend behind the Golden Statue Temple. During the years of Kaiyuan in the Ming Dynasty, a monk named Deran put efforts in collecting money from the village to expand the then small Golden Statue Temple. Unfortunately, his wish was not realised. At last, he sacrificed his life by burning himself. After his death, the villagers collected the capital quickly. The monk did not care about the fame, hence no record was left. The legend was only passed by the word



of mouth by the locals. Hearing this, I even admired Deran more.

There were two abbots in the temple — 72-year-old Li Yunlong and his wife. The old couple water the flowers and grow vegetables every day. Old Li patiently introduced every Buddhist statue to me which he was so familiar with. He especially liked a cave called "Touching Mother Monk" (Moniang Heshang). The statue recalls a monk who loved his ugly mother.



Lantern-lighting Buddha — the Hope of the Locals

At the time I left, Old Li told me to visit a Buddhist temple just opposite the Qingyi River. He said that whenever he was sick, he would go worshipping the small Lantern-lighting Buddha there.

I took a boat to the opposite riverbank. After a ten-minute's walk as he told me, I saw a temple, which looked more like a barn in the "production brigade". And I found the Lantern-lighting Buddha behind the temple. With a height of over two metres, it was made in the Ming Dynasty. There were many places holding the lighting lanterns on its body. Most villagers worship it when they are ill. They will light up a small lantern and put on the exact place on the Buddha's body where they feel painful or uncomfortable. It has acted as a hope for the villagers for hundreds of years. Meanwhile, I saw an old man lighting a few lanterns on the statue, he must be very ill!

On the way I left, I came across an ancient commanding terrace. Allegedly, Zhuge Liang, the intelligent military general of the Shu State described in Chinese classics *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, had commanded thousands of soldiers here during the Three Kingdoms Period (220 — 280).

Leaving the Thousand-Buddha Caves, I felt having taken a rich Buddhist lecture. Thinking deeply from my heart, I must visit this place again one day.

1. Old Li has looked after the Golden Statue Temple for years.
2. The eight-feet-high Mile Sitting Buddha is estimated the former model of the Leshan Giant Buddha.
3. Qingyi River flows aside the Thousand-Buddha Caves.
4. The exotic design of the Sui-dynasty carvings.
5. One has to take a boat over the Qingyi River to reach the Lantern-lighting Buddha.
6. This Buddhist statue is still well-preserved.



Translated by Yellow Dragonfly

Golden Western Sichuan in March

Article by He Kai

The plains in western Sichuan are most beautiful in March. On a sunny day, do bicycle through the countryside to appreciate the intense green of the sprouting wheat, the golden rape flowers, the refreshing breeze and the bluish water. In such an environment, the colour of yellow appears yellower and the green also looks greener.

The first time I bowed in homage to the beauty of Sichuan's plains was in early April of 1996. I was attending a training course in Hengshanzi, Pixian County. The scene, right out of a fairy tale, was on a hill surrounded by a sea of fields and flowers. During the 15 days of training, I grabbed every moment in the refreshing mornings, sunny noons, or scarlet evenings to visit the fields, the flower sea, the forest, or the riverside, immersing into them.

Five years later in late March, I again rode bicycle to this land which is near to my home and I have not visited for a long time. Leaving the town over Qingshuihe (Clear Water River) Bridge and turning right to the fields, I was surprised to find the rape flowers have already grown seeds. Continuing on I came to a farmhouse not far from Jitou Town where a large tract of rape flower was still in bloom. In high spirits, I hurried to pass Jitou Town and Anhe Bridge. Nearby the Tongjiang Township was a cluster of farmhouses. To their left, a neat and tranquil footpath led to a flourishing bamboo forest. As I biked along the highway, I could not resist the temptation to go into the bamboo forest where I found a stream alongside a footpath. A large tract of rape flowers was glittering in the field. Located far from the highway, this area is truly a virgin land!

I began to take scores of photos. The rape flowers were golden, the sky was deep blue, and grasses in the fields were deep green. Some cicadas droned in the bamboo grove around the courtyard of a farmhouse. Early summer had arrived. But it was spring for the cicadas. The sun was shining and I put a wet cloth on my forehead to cool down and wipe away my sweat. In the stillness of my mind, a poem emerged.

I rode my bike further. Soon I found a sign by the right side of the footpath. It announced Yujian (Fish and Sword) Village. I was surprised and happy. People could go fishing and practice swords here. It is really a heavenly place! If I had enough time I would have gone into the village to talk with some young women. That might inspire many beautiful and touching stories!

I walked from the town of Jitou to Tongjiang, and from Longchi to Wenjia to enjoy the scenery. I toured around by riding a horse, reading the map, searching information, or asking the locals. And I found another kind of beauty by reading in this way. Later, I rode a bike and stood quietly on a rocky bridge. Workers were bustling about in the upper and lower reaches of the

bridge dredging the channel. The bridge was filled with people hurriedly crossing or selling fruits, while a few others and I walked across leisurely.

Tourists from far away, would you like to come here and see one day?



(by Huang Yanhong)

We Need Friends When We Go Out

Article by Guan Jinger

I have travelled to many places in recent years. When I was young, I used to travel with a group of friends, and we carried backpacks on our travels. Over time, some of my friends have married, or have children to care for; some of them want to share more time with their lovers; or, they have no long annual leave due to the change of jobs; or, they can only join luxurious package tours because of worse health. Only I have alone travelled to places like Russia, Poland, Beijing, Sichuan and Yunnan.

The first time I travelled alone, I worried much during the ten-hour flight, for I had to make my own arrangements for the accommodation, transportation, and itinerary. I was lucky though to meet some people from Hong Kong, and we decided to tour around together. One day, when we were buying some snacks, a man dressed in uniform spoke to us in an unfriendly manner. He pointed at my shooting equipment and asked me to go with him. We began to quarrel, which attracted many onlookers. The man got scared and left finally. We thought that the man intended to grab my camera. We heard before we went there that both the police and the thieves were the same group. I was fortunate to be with a group of companions.

The other time, I again travelled to Sichuan Province on my own. I participated in a tour to the glaciers. As the bus zigzagged up to the mountain, the scenery became more and more beautiful. However, as the bus went higher, I began to worry because I was highly sensitive to altitude sickness. While walking to enjoy the view of the glacier, I slowed down my pace.

On the way back, what I saw had become blurred. Luckily, a few ladies from Zhuhai, a city in Guangdong, gave me a plastic bag when I vomited, as well as applied medicine on my forehead. Afterwards, I gradually recovered.

Lone travellers like me deeply understand the saying of "We need friends when we go out". Though we are together for only one or two days in our lives, they give me a hand when I am in need. I will never forget their kindness.

A Priceless Journey

Article by Li Zhaoji

We live in a hustling and bustling city life. It is difficult to take even a short holiday. If we join some shopping or rush package tours, we may not really be satisfied.

An early summer several years ago, joining a "super value" tour, my friend and I spent three simple days in the Wengyuan County in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province.

We left Guangzhou by taking a bus for three hours to the entrance of the village. Trees were planted on both side of the entrance, while shepherd boys were playing here and there. This scene along the nearby river created a wonderful picture. Walking along the town's market, we saw shops selling daily necessities, yet no one was hard selling or bargaining.

Riding a three-wheeled motorbike we drove into a quiet village. We came to the end of the cement road, which became a muddy path. As we jolted along the footpath, I greedily breathed in the fragrance of fresh grasses. Passing over several hillocks and small markets, we finally arrived at our friend's home 45 minutes later. In front of the two-story stone building, hens were escorting their chicks scratching for food. The atmosphere of the place was serene and tranquil. Surrounded by green mountains, and with a river and creeks flowing through the fields, we burst into endless folk songs. What a pity we had not brought our guitars along!

Curious eyes fell on us, as if asking "Where did you come from?". The weathered faces of the seniors and the naive smiles of the children contrasted each other. Many generations gathered together to enjoy the music in the field. People in urban areas are so busy earning money. How can the quality and content of life of urban people be better than that of these village people? The sound of the motor, the solid, tidy houses of the Hakka people, adequate electronic equipments, their joy of working hard, and simple attitude towards life are all I have long dreamed of.

Riding the delapidated bikes, walking on muddy roads, women washing clothes on the river side and men tending cattle and ducks, all combined to create a pastoral scene. The porters, having finished their hard work for the day, stood on the hillock at the back of the village to watch the sunset. The noise of the motor cars ceased and was replaced by the songs of insects in the stillness of the night. Lying in bed, I could not fall asleep. My mind kept recalling all the pictures. I thought of the past, present and future, as well as many questions about life.

Early on the day I left, an old man saw me off to catch the minibus at the entrance of the village. I reluctantly returned to the city, which I both love and hate!

Beggar Art

Photo and article by Feng Yanjun

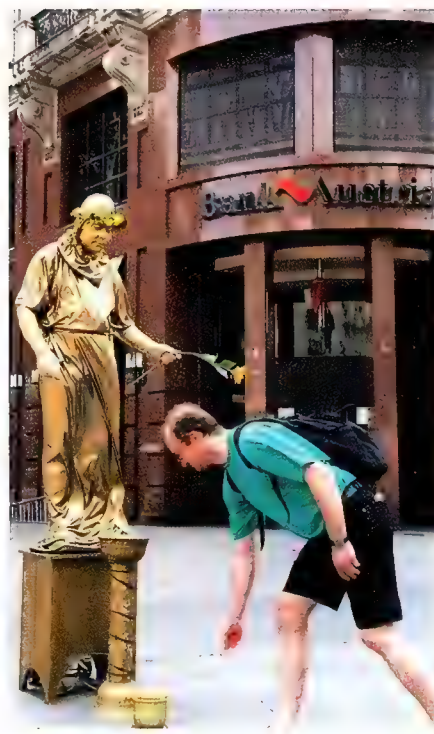
Everybody has seen beggars. Usually they wear tattered and unkempt clothes and have an abject, dreadful appearance. Their eyes are glazed over and they are in low spirits. They eat in the wind and sleep in the dew enduring the hardships of their arduous journey. They idle and hope to get help from others. Sometimes they get together and scheme to steal something from others. Their behaviour is harmful to society and everybody hates them.

However, in cities like London, Vienna, Brussels, Amsterdam and others, the beggars are of another sort. To attract people, they intentionally make clothes, masks and props. They dress up as sculptures and stand still at some crowded squares. Even when people offer something, they keep their eyes not looking around. They are sculptures that have lives and dignity. If you do not look carefully you will not realise that they are human beings.

I have seen on a street in London a beggar stood on a silver aluminium case, which included all his belongings. A pot of the same colour was placed in front of the case for collecting the money given by people. He was wearing a silver grey jacket, a pair of silver trousers, silver shoes and silver gloves. His face was painted in silver. Wearing a pair of sun glasses and cap, he had an impressive bearing. On a street outside the Windsor Castle, a woman wore a dark red one-piece dress covered with a white silk coverall. She held a white fruit basket and looked very much like a bride. Have you not noticed the coins inside the basket could you relate her with a beggar.

Another time in Vienna, a beggar, who looked like a gold sculpture, wore a kind expression while holding a spray of flower in his left hand. When people gave him money, he would point their heads lightly with the flower, as if blessing them. On a street in Brussels, a beggar would shake hands with the donors. Tourists also gleefully had their photos taken with the beggar.

I am in admiration of these beggars in Western Europe. Although they are in poverty-stricken, they do not lose their personality. Their minds are positive and they face their lives optimistically. Most of the eyes they receive are friendly and even with love. People are happy to help the beggars and do not detest them. To some extent, these beggars have turned the act of begging to an art. Maybe these artistic beggars are the result of the long Western history and civilisation. This may also be the difference of the attitude, aesthetics, and valuation between the East and West.



PHOTOGRAPHING LANDSCAPES

Enhancing the Sense of "Being There"

Photos & article by Robert Jerome



Robert Jerome is a New York-based photographer who has travelled extensively. In his 25-year career, he has visited over 60 countries. Religious ceremonies and other aspects of local life with a strong ethnic flavour are his favourite subjects. He shares some of his photography tips below.

Tip 1

Include people in your landscape photographs. People provide a sense of scale to a scene. If you photograph a scene containing, for example, giant sequoia trees, the viewer cannot fully appreciate the enormity of the trees unless there is a point of reference by which to judge their size. Since we know the general height of human beings,

How many times have you returned from a trip to a scenic destination only to find that your landscape photographs have failed to capture the grandeur of what you saw in person? When we visit a beautiful area, our experience of it surrounds us. We can turn and see the full 360 degrees of the scene; a photograph can only hope to capture part of what we see. While few photographs can evoke the same sense of wonder we experience at a famous scenic location, there are techniques you can employ when shooting a landscape to create a sense of "being there".

people provide a good point of reference in scenic photographs. If possible, however, do not have your subjects smile directly at the camera. Such shots look overly posed. If people are not available, include something that will give a sense of scale to the scene, such as a building.

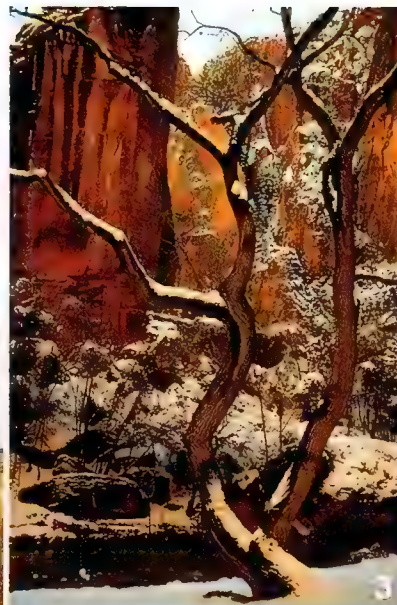
Tip 2

Determine the best time of day to shoot the landscape. Early morning and late afternoon provide warm light that enhances colours. Light at these times of day also illuminates objects from the side, creating a sense of roundness and depth. Shooting in the middle of the day often results in pictures that seem flat and lifeless.



Tip 3

Do not put the horizon directly in the middle of your photograph. Placing the horizon in the centre often causes a scene to appear to be cut in half. Nevertheless, sometimes placing the horizon in the middle of the shot is effective, such as when you are photographing reflections of mountains in a lake and you want to emphasize the symmetry between the bottom and top halves of the picture.



Tip 4

Avoid including broad expanses of the sky in your landscape photographs if the sky is completely blue or white. Blue or white skies are graphically boring; skies with cloud patterns are much more interesting. Dark ominous clouds as a background to a well-lit foreground create especially dramatic landscape photographs.

Tip 5

The best landscape shots have something in the foreground, middle ground, and background of the photograph. For example, a photo of a mountain range with nothing in the foreground provides no point of interest on which the viewer can focus.

Tip 6

Draw the viewer into your picture by having leading lines in the foreground that cause the viewer's eye to move from the border of



your shot to the primary point of interest. Examples of leading lines are fences, streams or roads that lead to the point of interest in the shot. Leading lines create the psychological effect of pulling your viewer into the scene and enhancing their sense of "being there".

1. Sunset is an ideal time to photograph Erg Chebbi Dune in Morocco. The setting sun casts warm light on the palm tree and the dune.
2. The curving line of the fence in this picture of farmland outside of Jackson, Wyoming draws the viewer's eye into the scene and provides a sense of depth to the shot.
3. The tree in the foreground of these mountains in Zion National Park creates a more interesting shot than if the photograph were of the mountains alone.
4. By placing the horizon high in this photograph of the Utah wilderness, the effect is one of unity. The photograph has a foreground, middle ground and background. The viewer's eye is drawn from the plants in the foreground to the red rock formation in the middle ground and finally to the clouds and snow-covered mountains in the background. If the horizon were directly in the centre of the picture, the photograph would seem to be cut in half and the viewer's eye would not travel in one continuous motion.
5. The tree in this photograph provides a sense of scale by which to judge the height of the Old Faithful Geyser.
6. Clouds provide a dramatic touch to this photograph of Mormon Barn in the Teton Mountains of Wyoming. Skies that are completely blue or white are uninteresting photographically.

Hotels in Yunnan

City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
Lijiang	Guangfang Hotel	*****	Shangri-La Boulevard, Lijiang	(888) 5188888	
	Forest Hotel	***	Col of Minzhu Rd, Lijiang	(888) 5120666	
	Guanguang Hotel	***	Shangri-La Boulevard, Lijiang	(888) 5160188	
	Lijiang Hotel	**	Middle section of Fuhui Rd, Lijiang	(888) 5121911	
	Jade Dragon Garden Hotel		62 Jishan Lane, Xinyi St, Dayan Town, Lijiang	(888) 5182888	(888) 5181899
	Ancient Town Inn		Jishan Lane, Xinyi St, Dayan Town, Lijiang	(888) 5189000	(888) 5126618
	The Old Town Sanhe Inn		4 Jishan Lane, Xinyi St, Dayan Town, Lijiang	(888) 5120891	(888) 5120892
	Dayan Old Town Buildings Administrative Comm. Inn		Jishan Lane, Xinyi St, Dayan Old Town, Lijiang		
Kunming	Kunming Hotel	*****	145 Dongfeng Rd E, Kunming	(871) 3162063	(871) 3163784
	Holiday Inn	*****	Dongfeng Rd E, Kunming	(871) 3165888	(871) 3135189
	Golden Dragon Hotel	***	575 Beijing Rd, Kunming	(871) 3133015	(871) 3131082
	Jinli Hotel	***	71 Huangcheng Rd N, Kunming	(871) 5153070	(871) 5155933
	King World Hotel	***	28 Beijing Rd S, Kunming	(871) 3138888	(871) 3131910
	Tea Gardens Hotel	***	Yongping Rd, Kunming	(871) 3139208	(871) 3138313
	Kingsun Hotel	***	Entrance of North Railway Station, Kunming	(871) 5149069	(871) 5158727
	Jinsui Hotel	**	33 Dongfeng Rd W, Kunming	(871) 5310998	(871) 5320358
	Jinmao Hotel	**	Business Section, Beijing Rd S, Kunming	(871) 3136681	(871) 3137820
	Kunming Camellia Hotel	**	154 Dongfeng Rd E, Kunming	(871) 3163000	(871) 3147033
	Golden Peacock Hotel	**	Right side of Daguan Park, Kunming	(871) 4145558	(871) 4141087
	Kunming Friendship Hotel	**	Eastern end of Renmin Rd, Kunming	(871) 3138106	(871) 3132533
	Harbour Plaza Kunming		Kunming	(871) 5386688	(871) 5378717
	The Westin Kunming		157 Beijing Rd	(871) 3562828	(871) 3561009
	The Green Lake Hotel		Kunming	(871) 5158888	(871) 5153286
	The Camellia Hotel		Dongfeng Rd E, Kunming		
	Yunda Hotel		Campus of Yunnan University, off "121" Main Road	(871) 5034181	(871) 5034172
	Lianyun Hotel			(871) 5156661	(871) 5155779

Flights to and from **Lijiang**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Kunming — Lijiang	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0700	0740	3Q4415
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0725	0805	3Q4411
	2	0735	0815	3Q4413
	2 5	0820	0900	3Q4465
	2 5 7	0825	0910	3Q4417
	4	0855	0935	3Q4443
	1 3	0940	1020	3Q4465
	3	1000	1040	3Q4413
	3	1005	1055	3Q4443
	7	1030	1240	3Q4468
	5	1055	1320	3Q4468
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1235	1330	FM 451
	5	1400	1600	3Q4466
	7	1425	1505	3Q4465
	7	1445	1700	3Q4466
	1	1600	1810	3Q4466
	6	1625	1705	3Q4465
	2 6	1630	1840	3Q4466
	3	1755	2010	3Q4466
	4	1820	2030	3Q4466
	2 5 7	1835	1915	3Q4512
Lijiang — Kunming	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0820	0900	3Q4416
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0840	0925	3Q4412
	2	0850	0935	3Q4414
	2 5	0940	1145	3Q4465
	2 5 7	0950	1030	3Q4511
	4	1020	1105	3Q4444

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
	1 3	1100	1310	3Q4465
	3	1120	1200	3Q4414
	3	1300	1355	3Q4444
	7	1310	1350	3Q4468
	5	1410	1500	3Q4468
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1410	1515	FM 452
	7	1540	1750	3Q4465
	5	1640	1720	3Q4466
	7	1740	1830	3Q4466
	6	1745	1945	3Q4465
	1	1850	1930	3Q4465
	2 6	1910	2000	3Q4466
	2 5 7	2000	2040	3Q4418
	3	2050	2130	3Q4466
	4	2110	2150	3Q4466
Shanghai — Lijiang	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0850	1330	FM 451
Lijiang — Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1410	1905	FM 452
Xishuangbanna — Lijiang	7	1150	1240	3Q4468
	5	1230	1320	3Q4468
	7	1610	1700	3Q4466
	1	1720	1810	3Q4466
	2 6	1750	1840	3Q4466
	3	1920	2010	3Q4466
	4	1940	2030	3Q4466
Lijiang — Xishuangbanna	2 5	0940	1030	3Q4465
	1 3	1100	1150	3Q4465
	7	1540	1630	3Q4465
	6	1745	1835	3Q4465

Flights to and from **Kunming**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Bangkok — Kunming	3 5	1015	1315	3Q 462
	4	1015	1315	3Q 462
	3 6	1330	1740	3Q 468
	1	1730	2030	3Q 466
	2 6	1730	2030	3Q 466
	7	1900	2200	3Q 472
Kunming — Bangkok	3 5	0815	0915	3Q 461
	4	0815	0915	3Q 461
	3 6	1020	1230	3Q 467
	1	1530	1630	3Q 465
	2 6	1530	1630	3Q 465
	7	1700	1800	3Q 471
Changsha — Kunming	2 5	0800	0940	CZ3467
	2 5	0955	1155	SZ4776
	3 7	1025	1155	WH2811
	6	1045	1220	XW 221
	1 4	1050	1230	MU5451

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
	1	1100	1110	WH2811
	2	1110	1300	XW 221
	4 7	1410	1540	3Q4574
	1 2 3 5 6	1410	1550	3Q4536
	4 7	1525	1710	G8 645
	1 4 5	1605	1740	MU5409
Kunming — Changsha	2 5	1020	1135	CZ3468
	1	1150	1540	WH2812
	2 5	1300	1435	SZ4775
	1 4	1320	1500	MU5452
	3 7	1325	1530	WH2812
	6	1545	1715	XW 222
	2	1625	1810	XW 222
	4 7	1745	1930	G8 646
	1 4 5	1820	2000	MU5410
Kuala Lumpur — Kunming	4	1135	1500	3Q 452
Kunming — Kuala Lumpur	3	1630	2000	3Q 451

* For reference only.

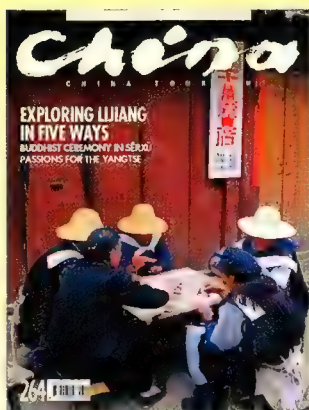
Airline codes:

CZ = China Southern Airlines
SZ = China Southwest Airlines

FM = Shanghai Airlines
WH = China Northwest Airlines

G8 = Great Wall Airlines
XW = China Xinhua Airlines

MU = China Eastern Airlines
3Q = Yunnan Airlines



Readership Survey

China Tourism always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Five Ways to See Lijiang	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viewing Shandong in the Air	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Visit to Wuxi CCTV Film & TV City	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My Passions for the Yangtse River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buddhist Ceremony in Sexu Temple	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tips for the Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Opinions: _____					

Name:(Mr/Ms) _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____ Number of trips to China in the last 5 years: _____

Where (how) did you first see *China Tourism*?

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☐ Hotel Name: _____ ☐ Others _____

Main purpose for reading *China Tourism*?

- ☐ Planning trips ☐ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc. ☐ Business
☐ Tourist Trade purposes ☐ Others _____

What do you like most about *China Tourism*?

Are you happy with the factual content of *China Tourism*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What are your suggestions for improvement?

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

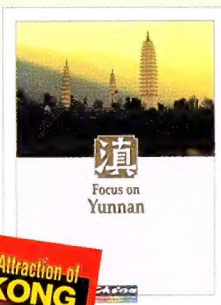
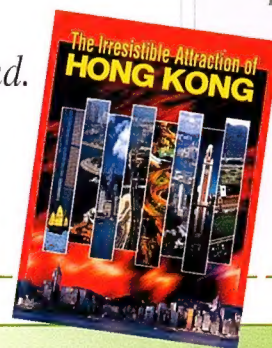
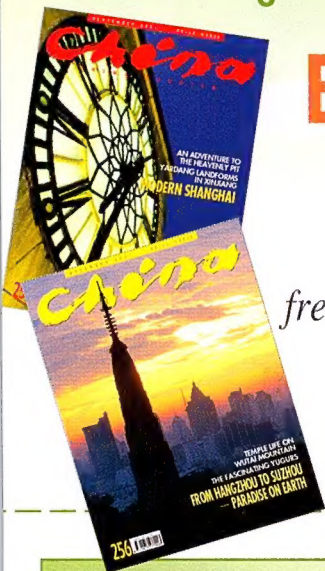
*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.

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JULY



22/6 — 14/7

The 4th Hong Kong Literature Festival, themed "Literary Interaction in the New Era", will offer up to 10 categories of programs with more than 40 events. Seminars (most in Chinese except "The Love of Reading and Learning" by Peter Suart) given by celebrated or new authors and critics welcome the involvement of audiences of all ages. Website: www.hkliteraturefestival.org.hk

22-29/6

Lychée growers can expect the biggest harvest in these five years in 2002! So, don't miss the **Lychee and Tourism Week** held in Nanshan District in Shenzhen. Organisers: Nanshan District Government, Shenzhen Tourism Association, Shenzhen Agriculture Bureau, Overseas Chinese Town Group Co Ltd. Inquiry: Shenzhen Trade Development Bureau Tel: (755) 6667554



15-18/7

Qingdao, the sub-contesting ground of Olympic games in 2008, is busily preparing a series of events in mid-July: The **2002 China International Marine Fair (CIMF)**, the **China International Ocean Sci & Tech Expo (CIOSTE)** and the **China Int'l Aquatic Sport Equipment Expo (CIASEE)**. New products and services will be launched to the public to enhance the status of Qingdao as an important coastal city in Northeast China. Website: <http://www.marinefair.com>



15/7 — 31/8

Enjoying the "2002 Guangzhou (Changlong) International Circus Festival" held in the Xiangjiang Safari Park and Chime-Long Night Zoo, both in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, will be your best activity with children in this summer. The circus is formed by 200-plus global performers from Italy, Singapore, Thailand, Russia, Vietnam, India, Mongolia, Mexico, Taiwan, and Kazakhstan, as well as 130-more animals. Tel: (20) 84796600 / (20) 84783333

10-14/7

The 2002 China (Shenyang) Automotive and Motorcycle Expo' and Trade Fair will be held in Shenyang, the capital city of Northeast China's Liaoning Province. Dozens of local and international car makers are going to exhibit their products at the fair hosted at the Shenyang International Conference and Exhibition Centre. Shenyang is one of the largest car production bases in China.

12-14/7

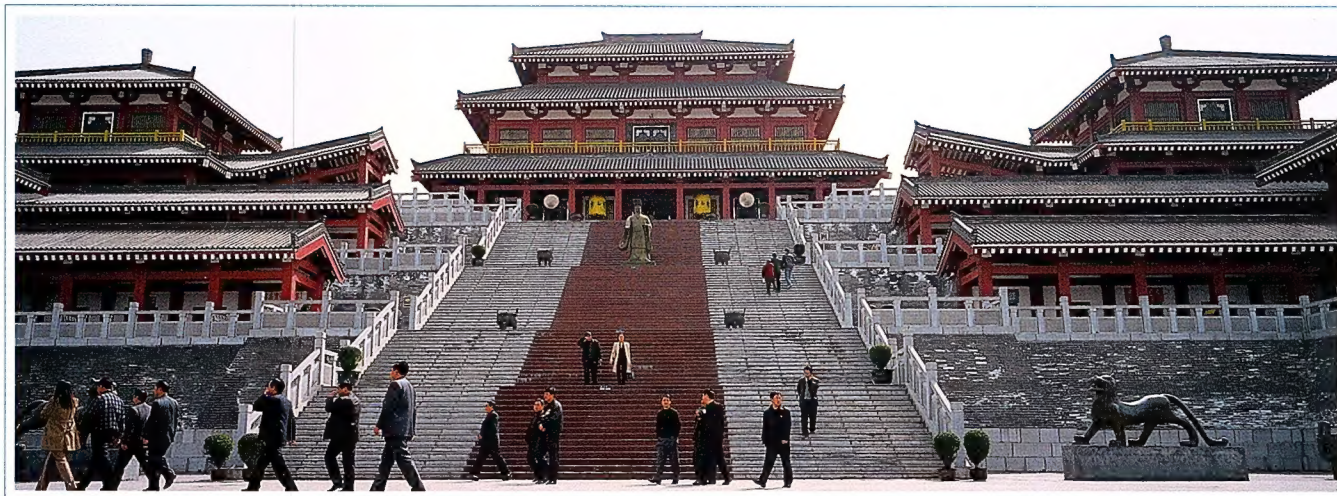
Italian director Francesco Rosi is best known for the social and political films made in a realistic style. In "July Classics: **Francesco Rosi The Power of Truth**", a program held by the Hong Kong Film Archive in Sai Wan Ho, eight of his films, including *The Swindlers*, *The Mattei Affair*, and *Christ Stopped at Eboli*, etc, will be screened. A seminar titled "Rosi's Camera: An Eye to the Truth" will also be held. Website: www.filmarchive.gov.hk

17-22/7

Organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and occupying 26,922 sq m in three halls at the HK Convention & Exhibition Centre, the **2002 Hong Kong Book Fair** has invited 370 exhibitors. The Asia Publishing Conference, a new book release presentation and seminars of renowned authors will be held concurrently. This summer, be a positive bookworm! Website: www.hkbookfair.com

佛朗斯高·羅西
Francesco Rosi





- There is a saying in China: If you want to see this country of ten years' development, visit Shenzhen; of 100 years', visit Shanghai; of 1,000 years', visit Beijing; and of 10,000 years', visit Xi'an. Nowadays, tourists visiting the city of **Xi'an** may also be amazed by the rebuilt Palace of the First Qin Emperor, the renovated Tang-dynasty Hanyuan Hall of the Daming Palace reflecting the prosperity of that period, and many other well-preserved antique places. Just 200-km from Xi'an, **Baoji** is also worthy to stay. The city feasts your eyes with bronze wares made in the Western Zhou Dynasty, the Famen (Buddhist's Gate) Temple storing the relics of Buddhist masters, an ancient cavalry battlefield, the hometown of famous figures earliest known in Chinese history, Mount Taibai, and numerous traditional performances....Welcome to join our journey to Xi'an and Baoji in Feature Story.

- The name of Taohua (Peach Flower) River flowing along the **Zishui River** Basin in Mid-China's Hunan Province was first heard in a popular song in the 1930s. The place is noted

because many beauties were born there in the past. Besides, it may also captivate you with exotic mountains and waters as well as the relaxed living style there. Having made a cruise on the boat in spring, our correspondent, accompanied by a few lovely ladies, has visited the interesting Fuqiu (Floating Hill) Mountain, Xiunu (Shy Girl) Mountain, and the ruins of Qu Yuan, the one we memorise during the Dragon Boat Festival, and a few refreshing old villages on both sides of the rivers.

- **Xiamen** in East China's Fujian Province is an ideal place for DIY travellers, though one may not find the desert or grassland landscapes as offered in the Northwest or Southwest China. For instance, the author of next "On the Way" is excited by the handsome coastal line in Xiamen. In just a five-day excursion, one can immerse in buildings revealing thick western tastes in the Drumming Wave Islet, a scenic area featuring lots of relief themed on daily life or historical facts, well-planned academies, and museums boasting rich exhibiting items. Certainly, the hospitable residents will be a bonus in the trip!

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